Number 16

$2.00

Metal Mayhem

California's Metal

FEATURING:

Bobby Smith Phil St. Vincent Doni Daudel Len Aguayo

SOLDIER

ETERNAL RITE

VENGEANCE

Heaven's Metal

Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine covering the metal of the kingdom. Jesus is the ruler of this kingdom. All reverence, praise and honor are due Him.

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Member of Martyrs' Cross Zines

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For the "Something to think about" department: Our value as a person is not dependent upon how knowledgeable we are about Christian rock. How often do we make someone else feel real stupid if they don't know this or that about Christian music? Also, what about our motivation to look cool? I'm sure all of us have been mocked as a Christian. How often have we thought, "If I looked real cool, then I wouldn't get mocked. That's what God needs: more cool Christians." Now, there's nothing wrong with looking cool and making yourself presentable, I'm just suggesting we regularly check our motives for looking cool. Next time we stare at ourselves in the mirror, let's ask ourselves who we're trying to impress and why.

Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two prayer partners. The way I've arranged that is by taking the name above and below each name on the subscription list, and matched them, so that the same people you're praying for have your name also. If you don't have the names and addresses of your prayer partners (there's a lot of you), write in and I'll send 'em to you.

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If you'd be willing to make xerox copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer and post it around your town, record stores, etc, I'll send you a master copy.

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Give the gift of Heaven's Metal. Know a metalhead who'd like to read Heaven's Metal? Why not get 'em a gift subscription?

Real good news! Heaven's Metal is now distributed through Spring Arbor to Christian bookstores. If you'd like to see your local bookstore sell Heaven's Metal, tell 'em to order it from Spring Arbor and give 'em the following ISBN #: 000-688-7104. This is another breakthrough for Christian metal, thanks to rad rocker Mike Delaney--who recently became the music buyer for Spring Arbor.

To get above the underground, Christian metal needs to get distribution like this. Now underground Christian rock bands can get national distribution, and you can pick up their product off the shelf of your local bookstore instead of sending a check through the mail! Records, tapes and cd's reviewed in this issue that are available through S. Arbor have ISBN #'s printed at the end of the review. You can take this number and have your local store special order that item.

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The Long-haired Local Church:

Rock And Roll's Refuge

One of the chief supports of California's Christian metal scene is Sanctuary, a church formed to meet the specific needs of born-again metallers. This same support needs to permeate the entire Christian metal scene if it's to stay healthy.

This is the story of two such churches and how they came to be. One is the Sanctuary church in Southern California, and the other is The Rock Church located just outside of Houston, Texas.

The first we'll talk about is Sanctuary. There are officially three Sanctuary churches: Hollywood--pastored by Vengeance's lead screamer, Roger Martinez; Riverside; and South Bay. Sanctuary is not a movement or a new denomination. In fact, the church has stopped planting other churches under their name. They continue to help other fellowships, Bible studies, ministries and other churches get started on their own. The vision they have is to really see the whole body of Christ, expressed in local bodies everywhere, all work together for the common cause of Christ.

Bob Beeman, the pastor at Sanctuary South Bay, tells how Sanctuary got started: "Basically, we started in December of 1984 with a real vision to reach out to the heavy metal crowd. I was pastoring a church in Whittier at the time, an Assembly of God church. I really saw a need to do some radical follow-up with the metal movement. None of the churches were doing it. Everybody was spending so much time fighting about the issue, whether it was credible or not, and forgot about the people involved.

"Sanctuary was born with a vision to do outreach and follow-up. We started out, basically, with the guys from Barren Cross and the guys from Stryper. Michael Sweet used to do worship service when we first started out. Things have progressed from there."

The worship services sound like your average evangelical church service. The music is mostly acoustical praise music.

To accomplish their goals, Bob would like to hook up with a lot of other churches doing the same thing as Sanctuary and get a network going. "We're doing the same thing. We don't wanna have an exclusive thing going. We don't feel like everything should be Sanctuary, you know? In the meantime, though, in a lot of places where people are starting a Sanctuary-type church and want some help, we're helping them get things goin'."

Their "California Metal album" project is doing great. "Our 1-800 lines are ringing off the hook. The vision is getting out now too. People are realizing that the bands are missionaries."

Sanctuary is trying to establish a lot of accountability with the bands. As one would guess, there are several bands attending Sanctuary churches. Bob meets together with the bands at his church each month. "We look at the vision that they have and the vision God's given them and we get on our knees and pray. We have our metal missionary meetings, where all the bands are together. The last one we had, we spent half of the time talking and the rest of the time we had 22 bands on their knees, praying for God to open up doors. I think that part is great. Also, we're putting together a big list of band names. We get calls all the time from different band members all over the United States, from garage bands to whoever. I'm doing a band newsletter, just a Pastor Bob letter, encouraging them and maybe a directive. Maybe they don't have any churches where they're at where anybody understands their ministry."

Because of Bob's influence, I thought it important to find out if he was accountable to others. He has seven elders and three associate pastors, who, Bob says, "Aren't afraid to tell me anything, which is good. I have other pastors, who are friends of mine from other churches, who are very, very accountable to one another. If they're questioning anything that I'm doing, they call me and say, 'Bob, let's talk.' I think a lot of accountability is great. It's definitely needed. It's because of that, I think, that Sanctuary has been perfectly balanced. I have a lot of people that balance me and a lot of people that balance this ministry out. The associate pastors are very different. I have a chance to participate with guys in a community. They have their own nature. My elders are hardcore guys. We've got every spiritual gift present from exhortation and prophecy to everything that's necessary. Our eldership shows every area. There's a balance there that makes the church dependent on each other."

Sanctuary is equipping its bands with special follow-up packets to hand to new converts at concerts. Barren Cross is currently on the road with 'em. "We decided that tracts aren't doing enough." Each packet contains a cassette tape and an "owners manual". The "owners manual" is the gospel of John with the following message from Pastor Bob on the inside cover: "Are you tired of trying to figure life out? Are you feeling ripped off by the world around you? Do you wish you had a 'owners manual' to give you answers to your life? Congratulations! You're holding

Who is this man, and why is he smiling? Bob Beeman, pastor of Sanctuary.

it!!" On the cassette, Bob walks through the plan of salvation in plain and simple language. On the back of the owners manual is Sanctuary's address and toll-free number.

"We not only talk to 'em, but we've got a whole network going now, where we plug 'em into a church in their own hometown. If we don't have one, the 700 Club does. We're hooked into the 700 Club now and all their crisis lines.

"The bands have the 800 line too. They can keep us up on what's going on on a daily basis. You know, if they need something, we can drop ship some material, or if they run out of money and so forth.

"Most of the band members at my church have gone through a lot of our courses. We have a six-month course in crisis counseling that we put everyone through that works on the crisis lines. We encourage all the bands to go through it so they can handle a crisis situation and counseling in general. We try not to give 'em pat answers, but real ones. Quite a few of our band members do take our year-long Bible courses. The course is now available through correspondance. We put together six-week courses you order by packets. It's a cassette album with three cassette tapes, a lesson on each side. It's real intensive. We're selling those for $6, just for expenses. Churches sell 'em for $59.95, but ours are just to break even. It's a Bible study course with curriculum. A lot of times we find that, even though we try and plug people into churches, there are a lot of churches that just aren't real fundamental in teaching. A lot of 'em are more into very experiential Christianity than Bible teaching, which is what we're into. We're very fundamental. We're very conservative in a lot of ways too, I guess, except for the way we look."

I asked Pastor Bob how he would reply if someone calls him and wants to know how to start a Sanctuary. "We have that happen at least once a day," says Bob. "A lot of people are real excited about getting a Sanctuary going. The first thing I'll do is send 'em a personalized form letter. It says, 'Thank you for your interest in starting a Sanctuary. We're very excited about what God is doing with us. We have many churches open right now and several more opening soon as God is opening doors.

"'Basically, there is a lot that goes into starting a church. It's not an idea one day and opens its doors the next. It takes just the right person to pastor it, just the right staff to keep it going, and then, through prayer and fasting, God does the rest. If you're serious about opening a Sanctuary in (inserts city), then we're ready to talk about it. First of all, you need to have someone that would be qualified to pastor the church. Someone who has Bible training and maturity and the calling on their life to be a pastor. I can tell you personally that being a pastor is probably one of the biggest jobs around and a person would have to be called to do it.

"'I guess the next step would be for you to let us know what the possibilities are. Write me a letter with all the details from your end and we'll take it to prayer.'

"That's where we start. We're finding out right now that a lot of the people that are in the process of opening up a Sanctuary already have something going. A lot of them are coming out of the Assemblies Of God church, where they've taken a stand against this kind of ministry. They already have churches who are willing to take a stand and don't know what to do with it and they decide to be a Sanctuary. Well, their credentials are great. They already have their stuff in place.

"Our qualifications aren't necessarily a seminary background, because I don't believe that that proves anything. Obviously there needs to be a Bible knowledge. One of the first questions that I ask anybody is, 'What's your prayer life like?' I know that, for me, the first thing I do is hit my knees for the church.

"Everybody was spending so much time fighting about the issue... and forgot about the people involved."

"If I don't see that, then I don't think they're qualified to pastor.

"God's just been bringing the right people along. Bob Stewart, a guy who used to travel with Walter Martin, is opening up one of our churches in Riverside. He's very, very qualified. He's an expert in apologetics. Of course we have our own magazine, called The Expositor. It talks about cults and false religions. I'm real impressed with the kind of people God's bringing us. We're not really interested in starting a movement. If people need to be associated with us or are in a situation where they need to hook up to make things run, we offer to help them get their own church going and call it something else. It's not like we have a movement that we want to start Sanctuarys everywhere."

Sanctuary does have a 40-page doctrinal statement. "It's actually a book that a new believer could take and learn all the fundamentals about Christianity. We've gone into great detail with it. A lot of us wrote it together. I wrote a lot of it as well as Pastor Roger of our Hollywood church, Pastor Steve at our Whittier church and Dave Hart at our San Diego church.

"It's not the kind of thing where anything goes. If they're gonna use the name, they have to be one with us in doctrine and in spirit. The other thing we ask to do is teach our curriculum for a year. That way we know they're getting the basics for a foundation."

Bob tells me the most exciting thing he sees in Sanctuary is changed lives. "A lot of the leaders that we have right now are the ones who became Christians when we started four years ago. They've developed into leaders. The Bible basically says that discipleship is teaching someone how to teach. We use that philosophy in all of our classes. All of our fundamental classes, all of our new believers classes, all of those things are taught by other people who were taught by me when we started. I spend all my time with my elders now. My elders are all in leadership now."

Bob's had quite a vantage point. "It's been exciting to watch God open up doors. Barren Cross is on the road now. I watched those guys start. Stryper, the same thing. They started as a garage band and now they're there. I just feel like God's working. The field is ripe for harvest. We get more workers all the time. It's just a matter of organizing it. We've made some mistakes and we learn from those mistakes and keep going."

I asked Bob if he had a word for us and he replied, "If there's any suggestion I could make, it would be that the only way people are gonna be won to the Lord in this whole ministry of Christian metal is if we pray. We've got to get on our knees and pray through. We also need an increased sensitivity in our lives. One of the major focuses in my church is prayer and teaching people how to pray. I have a 13-week study called 'Journey To Power'.

"We need to get into some radical Bible studies. In fact, we call our Bible studies 'RAD Studies': Radical Active Discipleship. When the Bible says to put on the whole armor of God, we shouldn't go out half-dressed. We need to be preparing ourselves to be everything we can possibly be. I think that one problem right now is a lack of real Bible training. There's a lot of people who want to be stars, but they don't know the Bible says 'the greatest will be a servant.'

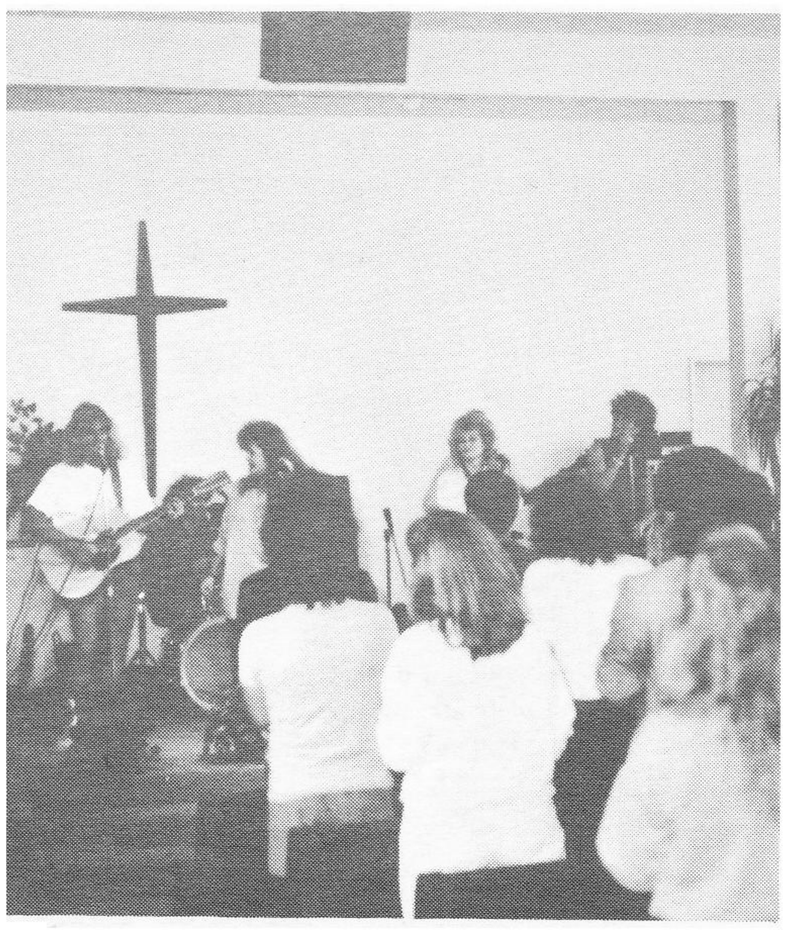
"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

"We're in a position now where we can either do a lot of things right or a lot of things wrong. We can fight back when other Christians are saying that the ministry we're involved with is satanic and isn't credible. We can fight back and come down to what they're saying, or we can work with them as much as we can to build bridges and not burn 'em and take it to prayer.

"We're very conservative in a lot of ways... except for the way we look."

"This ministry will never go forward unless we work together in the body of Christ. In our particular situation, there's a lot of other churches we work with. We have a church close to us with new wave and preppy people. It seems like an uncommon thing, but yet we work real well together. The pastor and I are best friends and kind of keep each other accountable. There's no reason in the body of Christ that we should tear each other down."

If you'd like to get ahold of some Sanctuary t-shirts (with designs like: Turn Or Burn; God Is Alive; and Holy Thrash--God's Speed) or some of the R.A.D. studies (8 studies on subjects like: Living the Christian life; Handling relationships; Spiritual lifelessness; prayer; and more. Each study costs $6 plus $1.50 postage and has three tapes with two lessons on each tape.), write Sanctuary for catalog listing of all these items. Sanctuary, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278-8330.



Sanctuary worship service

Photo by Doug Van Pelt

* * *

The Rock Church was the product of a Christian rock band. The Mount Zion Band, of which Pastor Steve Herrin is a member, evolved into a church. "We saw people get saved," says Steve, "and go into a church where 90% of the youth group were preppies. The other people there wore suits and these new believers didn't fit in. They didn't last but about three or four weeks before they just quit going. They couldn't change that fast, so they just became outsiders. We said, 'We oughta have a rock church.'

"We set out in '85 to get it going. I don't think the spiritual life was in order. Three different times we had opportunities for a building and they all fell through. For year after year I kept looking around and seeking the Lord. Then I got married, had a baby and felt like the Lord said, 'Start it in your backyard.'

"Last August we started meeting in my back yard. About two years before that I pastored a little church in the country for a year. I felt like I had the experience and certainly had enough anointing and knowledge of the Word. We began meeting in a little storage barn. Recently we expanded it so it seats around 70 people.

"We wanted an atmosphere where the people who got saved in this kind of ministry could come in and fellowship in a lot more relaxed atmosphere and grow spiritually without feeling the culture shock."

I asked Steve what he thought the biggest obstacles for his church growth was. He said, "I think it's the same thing with all Christians and all areas of Christianity. They're all torn between their time given to the Lord and the time it takes for them to make a living. There's a fine balance there. The more time you sacrifice to the Lord, I think you'll find that it seems a little easier to make a living. People have trouble gettin' up at 5:30 to pray and givin' the Lord that extra hour or two at night. I found that during the past year I've developed a strong prayer life and God has blessed me for it. He said He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

"The hardest thing for us is a very disciplined walk with the Lord, which He is calling the whole church to. It seems like the war with the flesh and what the devil is attacking the church with is holding us back. I'll be honest with ya, it's keeping us from being as spiritually strong as we'd like to be. There's a tremendous amount of demonic resistance against the church today."

When asked what kind of advice he'd give to someone wanting to start a Rock Church or Sanctuary, Steve replied, "Do it with music. We actually play heavy metal music in church Sunday morning, 'cause of the principles we know about music and the spiritual principles we believe God has shown us about music and its anointing.

"What we've done as a band is make friends with the other bands. Whoever starts one needs to know there's a great feeling of fellowship among people that are in Christian rock ministry. They will support any part of the body of Christ, but they will certainly support Christian rock ministries. For instance, Carey Womack of One Bad Pig. He's a great guy. If you call him and you're starting a rock church, the guy will probably go anywhere and play for anybody. A lot of people probably don't know that these Christian rock bands want people to call them to ask 'em to come play. These people that are not in music think that they're some kind of high-up people they can't reach to, but that's not true. They need to call these guys up and say, 'Hey! I'd like for you to come play for me.' They think, 'Oh no. They got an album out. I couldn't possibly call them.' They can.

"If they wanna build a rock church, they need to know that the Lord's called 'em to do it, first and foremost. They may need to wait on Him and know that He's saying to do it. They may need to bear down in spiritual warfare and know that the devil's determined that they're not gonna do it.

"You certainly don't go into Christian music ministry because it's gonna be big and glorious, 'cause it's not. It's not a glorious thing. You do it because you love it and feel called to it. I believe we're called to experience the sufferings of Jesus. The Bible says that, if you'll be partakers of His sufferings, you'll be partakers of His glory. There are many scriptures in the last part of the New Testament that talk about sharing the sufferings of Jesus. I think one of those is rejection. The Bible says He came to His own and they received Him not. Now, we're not supposed to feel the demonic presence of rejection all the time, I don't believe that. But there'll be times in your walk where the people that you love a whole lot and your brothers and sisters in the Lord may not really want you. It'll just be God doing a work in you. It oughta pass after awhile.

"I've seen God use this Christian rock to do a tremendous work. God uses it as a tool to work on us just as much as He lets us use it as a tool to work on lost people.

"If God chooses to raise up a Church On The Rock, well glory to God! If He chooses to raise up a little hole in the ground where four people win one soul a year, that's fine too. Every man's work will be tried with fire. The main thing to do is don't quit. When you quit is when you lose faith. We contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. That faith was delivered to them. They didn't have to contend to get it. It came on the day of Pentecost. It was poured on 'em. All of a sudden they had awesome faith. The more faith you have, the closer you get to the Lord, the more battle you'll find yourself in consistently. Satan will be throwin' in everything he can to cause you to fall down and lose that faith. If you have a setback, your faith is set back if you're not careful."

I decided to ask Steve if he was accountable and under the authority of others. He has some friends who

are ministers who he keeps close contact with. "I've been to enough churches where pastors say they're under this man or that man. What they do is counsel with 'em. I've never seen any real authority there. I have a lot of prayer warriors that are always tellin' me that God has them interceding for me. I think the Lord's got it under control. I guess it's more spiritual than formal."

If you'd like to write The Rock Church, their address is: 31807 Fall Lane, Pinehurst TX 77362

There's a taste of two churches that are actively involved in the Christian heavy metal ministry. Keep them in prayer.

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RUNNING AMUCK WITH HOLY SOLDIER

-Harley Dardano

Latest to join the secular oriented soul merchants of God's army are **Holy Soldier**, a battalion of real troupers engaged in a furious battle to disarm any illusions of being a cliche Christian band.

Entering the ranks of **Holy Soldier** to quite admirabley occupy the lead singer vacancy is Steven Patrick, who spoke of Holy Soldier's plan of attack, growing his hair, and watching potential become reality...

**Steve, let's start with a little about yourself.

"Well, I'm from Memphis, Tennesee. I was born August 31, 1962. I've been singing ever since I was a child. I started writing lyrics and stuff around age 10 or 12. I got into rock-n-roll bands about 1979, and I've had about two and a half years of voice training. I decided to get into Christian music because, through various different secular bands I was part of, learned the things we were singing about and our image hadn't real meaning. It was basically pretty stupid, and I wanted to rock for something that was real, something with real authority, real power. Rock for something I really, truly believed in. That's when I found Jesus Christ and decided to use my God-given gifts to glorify His name and win souls for Him."

Why did you decide to join **Holy Soldier?

"I was doing a little project with my brother. We had just done an EP. He's a guitarist and we weren't really sure about pursuing **Victory** (Steve's former band), because he had different interests, so I had come to L.A. for a vacation and, while I was here, a friend of mine showed me an ad for a Christian band looking for a vocalist. I wrote down the phone number and address and took it back with me, but I had no intention of pursuing it because I was still hoping things would work out with my brother and I. But he urged me to go ahead and send them a package, which I did, and the rest is history. I came out for an audition, then later on I moved out here."

What makes **Holy Soldier so special?

"Basically, I think it's the chemistry. Not only that they're real people, but we all have a sense of humor. We believe God has a sense of humor as well. Just like anything else, though, you can go overboard. The key to this band is really balance, but I think we're all the same sort of Spirit. It's like I've known these guys all my life and I fit right in there; and the way everyone writes and is unique within themselves and everyone blends very well to the musical aspect of it."

**You started to talk earlier about being prophesied into this band...

"I went to a drug rehab about two years ago, and there was this guy who used to be my arch-enemy in high school. Somehow or another (through this guy I was rooming with at this drug rehab, who had called this ministry 'Go Team Ministries' because he wanted to find out more about God and it just so happened this guy I used to hate was a born again Christian.), he started ministering to me as well. I saw something in his face, in his presence, and I knew it was God and I knew that's what I wanted and I told him I would appreciate it if he would help me with my walk to find God and stuff.

"I started going to his church, which was a charismatic church where they speak in tongues and lift their hands and I got turned on to that and got baptized in the Holy Spirit. But then one day his preacher was talking to me at lunch and convicted my heart about how much time I spend with rock-n-roll. As a result, I got very angry (I used to sing in this bathroom at the rehab, even after I got out, because the acoustics were great. I could go up and sing and it wouldn't bother anybody) and I was singing there one night and I couldn't sing. My mind was on this preacher guy, so I called up Jim--the guy who helped me with my walk--and he came up there and I said, 'I've got a problem with this rock-n-roll. I don't know if it's trying to become my god again or what.' I told him, even if I decided not to pursue music, if that's what the Lord didn't want me to do, that I still wanted to move to L.A. because the ocean, the desert, the mountains were there, right? Anyway, that night after we finished, we were standing on the steps of this drug rehab and he asked me if I wanted to pray and I said, 'sure,' so we started praying and praising God and I looked down on the ground and there was this oil stain. It looked like all the oil had leaked out of someone's car, this fresh oil stain. It was in the form of a man and you could see all the details, the beard, the nose, the hair. He had his head looking back up into heaven, and he had his arms stretched out, and his hands were cupped. The whole thing, I saw it, it was like, 'Wow, do you see that?' In the middle of his head, right around the mouth part, there was one little place that didn't get any oil on it. It was in the form of a cup and it had drops coming out of it, and it was like, 'Look to the Lord, and your cup will overflow.'

"I was like, 'Wow.' That night I asked the Lord to give me a word, so I opened up my Bible at random and it opened up to Isaiah 42 and it said, 'I have called you into righteousness. I will take hold of your hands to go free people from the dungeons. See the former things that have taken place and the new things I declare and, before they spring into being, I announce them to you.'

"That verse was under the heading, 'Servant of the Lord.' The Lord was telling me, 'First be a servant.' Then the next verse right after that was a Psalm of praise to the Lord, where it said, 'Sing to the Lord a new song, you who go down to the sea and all that is in it, let the desert and its towns lift their voices, let them shout from the mountain tops.' It was like I just said this to this guy thirty minutes before about the mountains, the sea, the desert, and then it said, 'The Lord will march out like a mighty warrior. He will stir up His zeal.'--I'm in **Holy Soldier**, okay? (laughs) Then He warned me at the end, 'But you who say to images and gods that 'you are our idols' will be turned back in shame. If rock-n-roll ever becomes more important to you than anything to be used as just a way to get my message out to those people, you will be turned back in shame.' So, He gave me a warning at the end. Just a lot of other stuff too. It's definitely been a trip."

**So, in your opinion, is rock-n-roll scriptural?

"Basically, music is music. I think music is the language of the soul. There's music in heaven. God created music. The thing about it is once you put your message to it, that's what determines whether it's good or evil, because God, being God, gives us the power to choose between good and evil. I think, when you put your own ideas or your own concepts and intertwine that within music, I think that's what determines if it's good or evil. Usually you sing about what is in your heart. If your heart is filled with corruption, violence, murder

and lies, then that's going to tarnish and stain your music. But I think there's various different kinds of music and I don't see anything wrong with aggressive rock-n-roll at all."

**I know a lot of people who, after they get 'saved', give up rock-n-roll and cut their hair. Why didn't you go that route?

"I actually did cut my hair...but...(laughs)

**(laughing) What, half an inch?

"I cut about three inches off, which is a lot for me. The only reason I did that is because it had been brought to my attention that maybe I let my hair grow for the wrong reasons. For peer pressure in high school or rebellion against my parents. So, I decided to cut my hair then and make my own decision whether I wanted to cut it shorter or let it grow down to my feet. Which I decided to let it grow down to my feet. But no, a lot of people think you have to change the outside to change the inside and that's totally wrong. Basically, when Christ comes, He changes your heart from a heart of fear to a heart of love. A lot of people think the opposite of love is hate, but the opposite of love is fear, because, why do you hate the Russians? Well, I'm afraid they're going to blow up my country. That's basically what God came and did to me. God wouldn't make you a certain way and then change you. He doesn't make your personality a certain way and then try to change it. I think the Lord is much bigger than to be concerned with little details like if you have a hole in your jeans or what kind of clothes you wear or how long your hair is. If God was against long hair...you see, God is the same today as He was yesterday. He wouldn't have allowed Samson to grow his hair. It says somewhere in Numbers, 'I will grow my hair and I will not cut it because I am Holy and consecrated unto the Lord. That is why I must let my hair grow...'"

With their popularity growing almost as fast as their hair, **Holy Soldier** marches forth into Satan's prime territory in rock-n-roll as no other missionary mercenaries have done before. For more concert and merchandise information contact **Holy Soldier** at: PO Box 7000-123 Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90274.

Editor's note: I had a chance to hear a demo of Steve's old band, Victory, and I am anxiously awaiting the new Holy Soldier sound. This guy's voice is perfect! He's got a very melodic, pouting voice, which we haven't heard in Christian metal yet. This band is going to be giant! Just watch.

Nehemiah Metal... And All The Hair You Need

The men behind the bold message of Eternal Ryte... and the hair they wear.

Eternal Ryte is one of my favorite bands. They've got a tremendously melodic, hook-filled sound. There's enough professional guitar chops to impress even the most critical guitarist. They've got a style all their own, and they're not timid to play it...and play it loud!

This is a catch-up interview, which follows their cover story from Heaven's Metal Volume II, Number 2.

**Tell us about your new tape.

"**Anthem**, the title track, is exactly what the song is," says lead singer Phil St. Vincent. "It's a call to arms for all the Christians to get off their butts and stand on their feet and start doing what they know the Lord's called 'em to do as Christians. It's kind of a warning song also, telling Christians it's a little late in the years of the earth for people to be playing games, cause the Lord's gonna approach really soon. It's basically an encouragement song and a 'get off your butt' song.

"We also have a song called **Forever Free.** It's a real happy commercial pop song. (It's heavy as well, with some very catchy hooks. It smokes!!--editor) It's about being free in the Lord. It's about the joy we have coming out of the world. The light of the world shines through all the darkness we've been through.

"**King Of Kings** is a cool song about people who play games with God. They don't realize it...they may think that they're hiding, because they're doing it in darkness, but God is God Almighty. He sees them no matter where they are. If you approach a king here on earth, you wouldn't approach him all cocky and 'Hey! How's it going dude? blah, blah, blah.' You would have reverence. You'd respect him. How much more should we respect the Almighty God, who created us? That's what that song's about. It's about living in reverence before your creator.

"**No More Lies** is kind of a social commentary song about crooked politicians. It's about politicians who claim that they're Christians to get the Christian vote. They've never shown anything in their walk or their life or shown any kind of faith. It's also about people who say they don't need God and they're just fine on their own. One of the lines of the song is 'You say you just don't need a godly form. You say you're doing just fine. Your righteousness is like filthy rags. You're trash in Jesus' eyes.'

"**No Place To Hide** is kind of self-esplanatory by the title. I guess we're kind of a 'get your butt up off your bed and do something' kind of band. Kind of a Nehemiah-type band. You can call it 'Nehemiah metal'.

"**He's A Killer** is back. We redid it. It's about Satan. He's a killer."

**What's the style of music like?

"It's a compilation of a lot of styles," says guitarist Bobby Smith "and sounds original. I would say we don't sound like anybody, but the influences are: Loudness; Queensryche; and Dokken. Heavy, but not thrash. Light, but not sweet. It stays within the context of a song, but it's also good to listen to musically. There's a lot of music goin' on, but it's not over-done. Each song is different. Fast, slow, 4/4 time. **King Of Kings** is a real headbangin' song, but it's slow. We put a groove to it."

"**No More Lies** is a double bass headbanger," says Phil. "It's very hard and very fast, with double bass pounding all the way through. **Forever Free** is commercial metal. The new version of **He's A Killer** that we do live is Bobby's spotlight feature."

**I heard an interesting story about how you got together with the producer of this tape.

"We were supposed to go into the studio and record an 8-track demo with my old boss, who owns the studio. We had everything set down: the day and the time booked. The day before we were supposed to go in and record, we got a call from this guy, who'd been trying to get a hold of us for about three weeks. Robert, our manager, was talking to him. He said, 'It's too bad you're going into the studio tomorrow. I'd really like to talk to you.'

"We said, 'Well, we can come in and talk to you and maybe work something out for the future.'

"He said, 'I tell ya what. I'll produce it for the same price on a 24-track.'

"We were in a big dilemma. We called my old boss and prayed that, if it was His will, that my old boss wouldn't feel like he was getting ripped off.

"He's not Christian, but he really enjoys Christian bands. I told him and he said, 'Go for it. Do it. That's what this business is all about.' He was more supportive about going into that studio than any of us were. I really felt the Lord open the door there."

Steve Brown, the guy who produced and engineered the tape, did a real good job. He's a Christian and is a contracted MCA engineer.

**How do you guys prepare to minister?

"Basically, when you're on stage, you just kind of go for it, so most everything comes in preparation: a lot of prayer; a lot of reading; fasting; praying together; going through everything that we need to share. Personally, I feel that when we go on stage, we have to know what we're going to talk about. A lot of bands like to be led by the Spirit when they're on stage. But personally, I feel that, when a pastor goes on stage to share, generally he prepares an outline and he's gonna give a message. We're an evangelical band, so we have a message to share. I like to prepare a message, more or less an outline of the songs and what we're about and what the songs are about and how they relate to the audience. I do this so we can share in an understanding way what's going on with these kids. I try to do that. The whole band really prepares a lot by prayer and reading. Sometimes we think of questions somebody in the club might ask and we'll give each other quizzes, like: 'What would you do if somebody said, 'Why should I believe in God?'' Then everybody in the band would come up with scriptures, which I think is really good testing. I think we really prepare a lot for the show."

**The Holy Spirit's not limited to lead you when you're sitting down with paper in your hand, just the same as He's not limited to lead you just when you're on stage.

"Exactly. Sometimes I've had a whole thing planned. I know exactly what I'm going to say and the Lord just says, 'Nope!' That doesn't normally happen, but there have been occasions when that happens. The Spirit will always lead as long as you're willing, as long as you're tender to His leading."

**What do you think about the Christian metal scene in California?

"I really think the Lord is starting to clean it up," says Phil. "The last time we talked, I had a lot of complaints about it. There were a lot of bands that I thought really didn't have their act together. They had really thought a lot about their playing games with the Lord. Since that time, I've really seen the Lord start dealing with hearts and really make people understand exactly what ministry is about. You don't just get up there and say, 'Yeah, Jesus is cool,' and that's it--just rock your brains out. It takes real ministry and knowing the Bible, knowing the Word of God, and understanding what the Holy Spirit's guidance is. I've really seen the Christian metal scene mature a lot in the last year or so. I'm really actually kind of excited about it. It's starting to draw a lot more non-Christian people to Christian shows."

**Are there any parting messages you'd like to speak to Heaven's Metal readers?

Photo by Doug Van Pelt

Eternal Ryte pre-glam pose at Metal Mardis Gras. Pic l-r: Doni; Len; Bobby; and Phil.

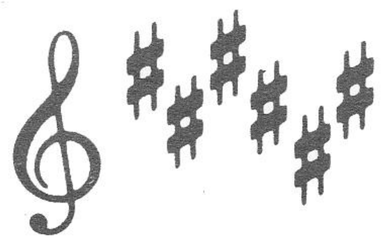
"Just to really petition and lift up the bands," says Bobby. "Pray for them, that they become more serious about what they're doing. Also that the Lord would clean house, clean up those ministries that really shouldn't be there. The ones who aren't doin' it to be in ministry. To those who want to start a Christian band: that they really pray about it and wait on the Lord. I know a lot of people who are guitar players and bass players and are anxious to get into ministry. They don't care what they do. I think what's important is to really wait on the Lord. I mean, take a year, take two years. Really prapare yourselves spiritually. Use the Bible, and practice, because the job is for the Lord and it should be good. You don't say, 'The Lord gave me this talent' and then get up there and play just awful."

"The scripture says to play 'loud and skillfully,' not just loud," says Phil.

"I would like to say that I feel the Lord's coming back pretty soon," says Len. "I just see Satan going wild and just really bringing a lot of attacks on God's people right now. They should be aware of what's going on. The only way for us to win the battle is to let the Lord do it for us. We've got to be on our knees and asking Him to lead us and pour out His grace right now. Our message to get out there is that a lot of people out there can have a hope for tomorrow, and that hope is in Jesus Christ."

"The Lord is coming back," says Phil. "My big parting statement to Christians is: 'Get off your butt; get your face in the Word; get it together with God, because He's coming back soon. He'll come back for a bride that is pure. It's up to each and every one of us to be committed to the Lord, because the people who aren't are playing games.' That's my parting comment to Christians: 'get it together.' It takes sacrifice. It takes a lot of putting your nose to the grindstone. It takes a lot of time to yourself, because that's what's required of the Christian life you lead. I we don't do that, if we don't take up our cross, then we really need to ask ourselves seriously about eternal life. I want to see all the Christians getting together. I want to see everyone at the big table."

If you'd like to pick up this hot six-song cassette EP, send $6. Black t-shirts with their silver logo are $10. A limited edition t-shirt with charicatures of the guys is $11.50 and available in M, L, and XL. Add $2 postage for any item ordered. If you order more than one item (like a tape and a t-shirt), the $2 postage fee will cover it all. Send to: Eternal Ryte, PO Box 2427, Pasadena CA 91102.



Here are addresses of several other Christian metal bands in California:

First Aid, 14140 East Alondra, Suite C, Santa Fe Springs CA 90670.

Contagious, PO Box 105, Lakewood CA 90712.

Crossforce, 14377 Bancroft #23, San Leandro CA 94578.

Spectra, PO Box 70375, Riverside CA 92513.

Antioch, 10741 Limonite, Mira Loma CA 91752.

Touche' Touche', 9543 Cameron, Cucamonga CA 91730.

Jordan, 1765 Magnolia Ave #18, Long Beach CA 90813.

Deliverance, 1525 Aviation Blvd, Suite B-279, Redondo Beach CA 90278.

Stryper, PO Box 1045, Cypress CA 90630.

Barren Cross, 1525 Aviation Blvd. Ste A-133, Redondo Beach CA 90278.

Gardian, 1525 Aviation Blvd. Ste B-277, Redondo Beach CA 90278.

Valor, PO Box 1653, San Leandro CA 94577.

Back With Vengeance

By Crash McNamara

"Vengeance is Mine," saith the Lord. Indeed, thrash misers Vengeance, recently signed on Intense Records, do seem to be of the Lord. Self-avowed as the ugliest band in Southern California (Guns-N-Roses will be disappointed), Vengeance does indeed get ugly--ugly with Satan.

Roger Martinez, pastor of Sanctuary Hollywood and lead screamer of Vengeance rapidly fires off the band's philosophies and insights on thrashing for the King of Kings...

**How did Vengeance get started exactly?

"A number of things were happening actually. I, myself and Pastor Steve Valdez of Sanctuary Whittier, were attending a lot of the thrash shows around town: Exodus; Slayer; Possessed; Venom; all these different bands, Metallica, etc. We were doing a lot of outreach around there and I saw a real massive need for ministry in that particular area. Well, at the same time down in Southbay (Sanctuary), the rest of the band members had been working for approximately a period of a year concerning this particular area of ministry also. I was sitting around with Doug Thieme one night, actually a few of us were there, Larry (Farkus) was there and Doug was telling me they were jamming in a band that fit that particular scene (thrash). We got together and they told me they were looking for a vocalist, we played (snaps fingers), and it clicked good. It worked out real neat, and we all knew each other anyway and it just flew together real quick, within a few rehearsals we were already doing shows, because the musicianship within the band overall was there. So, it all really just flew together real nice, ya know?"

**So, you weren't thrash from the beginning?

"Well, in the late 70's I was into the early punk scene. I used to be a punk way back when 'The Damned' and '999' were around. When it was really heavy on the English side of things. A lot of the American bands were getting into it, like 'X'. But, throughout the stages in my life I had gone through a number of musical phases and, being a musician myself, I can appreciate different musical styles. So, this is like, something I'm doing now. Most musicians who are truly musicians, you'll find never limit themselves to say, 'I'm this, I'm that'--that's more along the non-musician line of clicks and things of that nature. A musician will leave it open and say, 'I enjoy all styles of music.' Being a musician, you come to appreciate it. I, myself have played a lot of styles of music...seeing the need. Trying to put together some parts along this line before Vengeance even began, when Roger Martin was playing with those cats. I was trying to recruit him into a thrash band. I was saying, 'Bro, we gotta go out there,' but he was real busy at the time. We had always wanted to do something of this nature and get out there. A lot of us had seen that so, now (snaps fingers) people worldwide: United States; Germany; France; just everywhere have been receiving our music and what we're saying, so it's real neat."

**How do you think music became such a battleground for good and evil?

"I think, throughout the centuries, music has always been used in different forms. I'm sure you've heard the allegory of fire, it can be used for good, it can be used for evil. Same thing with a gun. It can be used to protect or to harm. There have been those who use it (music) on a debauchery-type level and there are those who have used it to praise God. I think it's always been that way, especially in the recent years it's really gone on a pro or con basis. Through a lot of interpretations of our constitution which we've seen, the handling of what's been going on has been really getting out of hand. How they axed Bork because he stood for morality-types of situations and said, 'Well, we want immorality to have the same place.' Where, as in this country 30 to 40 years ago it wasn't that way. So, it's been a number of things. Are you speaking in reference to recent musical styles?"

**Well, yeah. Of course we have the rise of bands like Barren Cross and Stryper as opposed to bands like Exodus and Possessed--seems to be really put in terms of...

"Oh, I see what you're saying, yeah."

**I was wondering what place you thought that might have in music.

"I think a lot of it, the majority of it for that matter, along with many of the so-called black metal bands or many of the bands out there promoting anti-Christian philosophies and thoughts of that nature, most of them will tell you they really don't believe what they're singing about, they just do it because it's a gimmick. For many of them, that is indeed the case. We don't want to say everyone is a Satan worshipper. A lot of it's due to a money thing. Then there's those that are involved with these things extensively, but then again we can't say that Venom is any worse spiritually than Barry Manilow, they're not. It's said that the devil will come as an angel of light. As a nice guy, not a big, hairy monster as people would perceive from our basic Hollywood rendition of the devil. He's a lot more subtle than that. The blatant ones in our style of music are in the of the league of...I see it on a lot of different levels. I try to look at the whole ball of wax, not be an extremist one way or the other."

**What makes Vengeance different from any typical or semi-typical Southern California rock band?

"We're uglier than they are (laughs), that's our line."

**(laughing) Yeah, and your hair is "big?"

"There ya go, something like that. For those who are getting out the message, really nothing. You've got your difference in musical styles. In general, though, I think everyone in Jesus Christ is doing the same thing. I appreciate everything they're doing and praise God for them, they're reaching people we couldn't even begin to touch."

**Tell us a little bit about Sanctuary churches and your involvement with them.

"It's a real neat fellowship. We have a correspondence course going on for anyone who may read this. They can write to the Sanctuary churches for teachings from the Word of God if they would like that, or information on any of the bands--perhaps Vengeance isn't their style. I personally will be doing a couple of the tape series that are going out too."

**Tell me a little bit about the new record dude.

"Ah, that's real neat. I'll be quite frank with you. I'm not going to set any dates, but the record company told us the album's supposed to be out in June. It's with Intense Records out of Graceland. It's an independent company, but it will be distributed through Enigma's 'Restless' label.

"The demos are available now." (See ranting and raving review this issue.) Please send $6 (Money orders only! No checks or cash) to: Roger Martinez, 8033 Sunset Blvd $441, Hollywood CA 90046.

Their album will have 15 songs on it, plus a killer album cover, featuring a full-color shot of a hand nailed to a cross. The title's gonna be "Human Sacrifice."

Heaven's Metal t-shirts are here! There's two colors to choose from: turquoise or yellow. It features the Heaven's Metal logo and the slogan "Worship At Full Volume". Cost is $10 (Overseas add $2.50 for Air Mail postage. Send size and color preference. (If I sell out of one color early, I'll have to send you the other selection. I'm having 75 printed up, so order soon!

This Soldier Is Holy, But These Are The Other Guys

Soldier, the professional melodic metal band from the Bay Area, has just finished a new tape called **Babylon.** "I'm usually not happy with tapes," says vocalist Jimmy Arceneaux, "but this sounds really good. I think people are gonna really like it.

"There's a new song called **Deadly Weapon.** It was never even played live before we went in the studio. It's about spiritual warfare. Deadly weapon is in reference to the gifts of the Spirit. It's not very wordy as far as lyrically concerned, but I wrote it when I was back home in Texas about a year ago. It's a good, powerful, middle of the road heavy song. It's not real fast. It's got a great solo by Rick...a fantastic solo by Rick.

"We've got another new one called **Promises.** It is a song about God keeping His promises with His people and stuff. The fight of faith, keeping up in troubled times as well as good. Of course we do **Louder Than Hell** on there. It's a real good recording of that. **King Of The City** is on there. We got an updated version of **Angel** on there, just because a lot of people thought it could have been done better. We agreed. We got a little bit of keyboards on it. In fact, that's about it, as far as commercialism goes. **One Of A Kind Romance** is on there. It sounds really good. It's a song we've been doin' awhile, but we've never had a chance to record. **Priceless Heart** is on there. There's a little musical intro on there called **Babylon,** which is pretty funny. It's an intro to the whole tape. It's kind of a concept thing. It's this weird acoustic thing with a bunch of...there was like 25 tracks of electric guitars recorded on it. It's just noise in the background. It's the origin of the name Babylon, because it is confusion (laughter). It's like we were giving a guitar to people and just saying, 'Here, do something. Throw it against the wall,

something.' It's just really weird. It's just really out there. We just did it for kicks.

"It's a good tape. We recorded it at Mastertrack out here. It's all operated and owned by a Christian organization. It's 24-track. It sounds album material. We really got blessed with the quality. It's phenomenal."

**Do you have any image changes planned?

"Well, we've gotten a little more street. I was talking to Dave Mutillo and he was like, 'Oh no, you guys are gonna quit doin' the glam thing!' I go, 'No, we're gonna still wear the colors and be obnoxious as far as our clothes go.' We'll always be over the top as far as that goes. We've gotten a little more rougher around the edges. Before, we kinda came out and everything was real pretty. You know, real up-to-date, kinda glossy-looking. It's gotten to the point where there's a little more leather thrown in here and there. Cowboy hats, you know. Kind of a street image. It's kind of a nightmare too, because we started doing it before Guns 'N' Roses. We started doin' it on a small level, like Mark and stuff, and then Guns 'N' Roses started getting big, so it probably looks now like we're jumping on the bandwagon. So, probably I wouldn't doubt if, by this summer it'll probably change once again back to something just outrageous. I have no idea what at this point.

"Everybody's hair's gotten bigger. The show's gotten really good. We've tightened up the show a lot. This week was our two-year anniversary as a band playing live.

"Our writing is more solid now. All the songs that we've started writing, even since we came out of the studio, are blowing the stuff we did in the studio away. It's really weird. It's like God's been blessing us with tunes. I've got three songs that we haven't been able to touch yet. Rick's got four. Mark's got about five of 'em. We haven't been able to get to 'em cause we've been so busy. We've just demo-d 'em with each other and gone, 'Whoa! This is just unbelievable!'

"Things are looking real good. God's definitely moving. I don't know where, but the band's getting really professional and better at what they do. The songs sound like Soldier now when we write a song. It doesn't sound like us trying to make it sound like Soldier. We're not really talking to anybody seriously, so it's either just that or God just wants us to get on our toes so we can stay out there and just be a good ministry in the clubs. Either or, we're happy to be doin' it, 'cause we're really good friends with each other."

**How did Soldier form?

"Mark and I had just quit a band called Rex. We were all Christians, but we were doing top-40 and stuff. Things got kinda out of hand, not as far as--nobody was doin' anything weird--attitudes got real bad and stuff. It got down to where they kicked me out of the band for doing something stupid: I missed rehearsal, because I was putting a car stereo in. They thought my whole heart wasn't in it, so they asked me to leave. I said, 'Thank you very much,' and I left. Mark said, 'Well, if this is gonna be it, what am I gonna do?' Mark came here awhile and lived with my wife and I. For about six weeks we were just in chaos, going, 'Gosh. Is God trying to tell us to give it up or what?' We just kinda sat there lookin'. We went as far as auditioning girl vocalists--for me that's a pretty big thing. I'm sorry girls. About the sixth week we finally just went, 'Forget it. No. Whatever. Let's just give up and be whatever God wants us to be. If we're gonna be flippin' burgers, we'll do that.' We were in work one day and we had just put on Stryper's "Soldiers Under Command" and here comes this guy with the biggest hair we'd ever seen besides Mark's. He walks up and he goes, 'Hey! I heard you guys were lookin' for a guitar player.' I looked at Mark and said, 'Yeah we are.' He just kind of smiled and nodded his head. He didn't say anything. It was like, 'Yeah. I'm the dude.' We talked a little bit and he told us what he had and I told him what kind of stuff we had.

"We figured, 'Why don't you come over tomorrow and play over at my house and we'll hear each other and talk and see what we think.' He came over and he started playing. Well, at that point I looked at Mark and I grabbed him by the shirt, pulled him into the kitchen and said, 'We've gotta get this guy, no matter what happens.' Anyway, we convinced Rick to join the 'cause' and we told him 'Yeah this is what we wanna do.' He went 'Alright. This is cool.'

"We went our ways and said we'd try and find a drummer. That night Rick went home and some guy named Al Whalen called him up and said, 'Hey! I'm a drummer and I'm lookin' for a band. I heard you're a really good guitar player. Do you wanna get together and jam?' Well, Rick was blown away. He just went, 'Whoa! This is a total trip, because I just talked to a bass player and a guitar player/singer who want to start a band.' He goes, 'Really?' So anyway, Al calls me up at three o'clock in the morning that same night and goes, 'Hey! I'm a drummer and we need to get together and all this stuff.' So we went, 'Okay.' We've never heard each other play, as far as a band, so we went out to Denny's. This is all within the matter of three or four days. We went to Denny's, sittin' there goin', 'Yeah, this is what I'd like to do. This is what I'd like not to do.' We talked about mistakes from the past and stuff. We were sittin' there and we go. 'Let's do it then. Let's just do it.' I've very rarely done that, either. We sat there and I go, 'Wait a minute, if we're gonna do this, let's pick a name now. I hate putting together a band and people ask me 'What's the name of your band?' and you go, 'Oh, we don't have a name yet. Mark and I had thought of this name a long time ago, before Rex, the old band, ever broke up. So, Al looked at us and he goes, 'You know what? I always thought **Soldier** would be a cool name.' Mark and I looked at each other and we just about fell out. We went, 'Whoa, that must be what we're supposed to name ourselves.' So, that was it. It was very scarey. It was definitely God's hand moving, 'cause the members came together in a day. It was pretty neat."

**How do you guys afford such nice equipment?

"Maybe I should have my wife answer that. To be brutally honest, we don't. A lot of the stuff we got on credit. We've paid off most of it at this point. I'm gonna answer two questions. Usually the next question is: 'Why so much equipment?' I'll answer both at the same time. When we got together, we had a few things here and there. Rick had two half stacks and I had one. I felt kind of stupid with just one, so I ended up getting two and it just kinda went from there. Our whole rationale for this was, we looked at all the great bands. The bands that we loved when we were kids, like Kiss, Aerosmith... All the big bands that we were really into had big stuff. I went, if we're gonna reach these kids on a level where they're gonna look at us and go, 'These guys are just like the big-time guys,' then we have to match that with equipment. Rick and I got together and we went, 'Look, this is what we want to do: A year from now we have to have this. No matter what it takes, we have to pray that it gets taken care of. We have to do it, because we have to get on a level where we're out there with the secular bands and they don't go, 'Oh, look at the Christian band out there with their cheesey equipment,' you know?' We started buying stuff. Some of the expensive stuff we had before we got the band, like the guitars. But, then, like I said, we started with one cabinet and then there was 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. All the white cabinets we use now, we ordered at one time from a company up in Seattle, so we got 'em for really cheap. Most of us, like my wife and I, went really heavily into debt for a long time to get this equipment. We thought it was very important. We got it all now and we stopped and we're just using the stuff we have now. That's how we afford it: we don't.

"It's ridiculous in some cases, but we've really been provided with a lot of stuff. A lot of money has come in you know, it was totally a blessing from God. A lot of people go, 'Oh, that's a real pat answer,'

Photo by Doug Van Pelt

Soldier after high-energy set at Mardis Gras '87.

but it's really worked in this band. Lots of times, when we thought, 'Oh gee. How are we gonna pay for this stack of cabinets?' and money just came from out of nowhere, you know, from something that we had forgotten about or something like that."

**What's the secular audience response been to Soldier?

"We do shows totally different than other bands do. A lot of secular bands we play with at clubs (We do a lot of secular shows) call up the clubs and ask to do shows with us now. There must be something there. It's weird. We have a few people that are like, 'Oh, just a bunch of Christian wimps.' There's a lot of people that like what we do just because they see the professionalism of it all and they see us witness to them and it's not like a real degrading thing. We come to them in love, rather than get really rowdy and going, 'Turn or burn.' We've been handled pretty well by the secular audience.

"We did six Christian shows last year and there was like no ministry whatsoever. We just kinda said, 'God, what's going on? This is just really feeling lame for us. We're just goin' through the motions here.' So finally we just started getting all these secular gigs and God's really been blessing us. People have been calling us and going, 'Yeah, we wanna book your band with this band.' We've been doin' more ministry with the bands than with the audience. It's pretty cool."

Soldier's 10-song tape, **Babylon**, is available through the mail for $7 (including postage). Write: Soldier, Suite 171, 39120 Argonaut Way, Freemont CA 94538.

Soldier is also putting together a video. "We've got videos from every show that we've done, except one. We're taking it and we're splicing old footage up till now. It's hilarious. It's really funny. The 'no-hair band', way back when. We're gonna do that and sell it through mail-order."

Soldier will also, of course, be featured on the Metal Mardis Gras video, which Sanctuary is currently editing.

The Blairing-Out Project

A talk with composer Eric Blair

The name Eric Blair brings a satisfied smile to the face of a few Christian metal collectors/insiders who have had the opportunity to hear his radical thrash project. To most, the name Eric Blair brings a "Who???" to your lips. His project was a four-song tape which featured Oz Fox riffing through speed metal riffs. It's a classic recording that everyone should have in their collection. It's a shame that some of these obscure projects are so darn hard to come by. Eric, due in part to this interview, is making a limited number of tapes available on a first come, first served basis. Send $5 plus $1.50 postage to Eric Blair, PO Box 452 Tustin CA 92681.

**How did the Blairing Out project come together?

"It's a long story. It goes back to when I first met Stryper, when I was into drugs and satanism. I used to try and persecute Christians. My story is like the conversion of Paul. I used have this shirt that said 'Death to all Born-again Christians'. One day I went to the beach with a friend of mine, named Jeff. He was wearing the shirt and a guy named Guido came up and started talking to us. He knows Stryper and invited us to come see 'em. This was before they were Stryper. Anyway, I gave my life to the Lord. A couple years later I ran into Rikk Hart of Gardian. I had gone to high school with him. He came up to me and told me how he got saved. He let me hear the first rough demo of Gardian's stuff. Gardian was called Fusion at the time. He asked me if I thought I could get 'em signed. I said, 'I'll try.' Anyway, you know the story, they got signed. Next, I met a girl who had a great voice. I thought, 'Maybe I can do the same thing with her that I did with Gardian.' So, I got all these musicians together to play on her demo tape. I got this guy named Brent Jeffers to write songs. I got Paul Cawley, from Gardian, to play on it. Paul told me about Eddie Keaggy, a relative of Phil Keaggy, and we got him to play on it too. I had Michael Sweet come in and play on one of her songs. I shopped her tape around, but nothing happened with it.

"I used to make comedy tapes for Stryper. They took one out on the road during the Soldiers tour and they all dug it. One day Oz said, 'Hey! When I get some money, you and I are going to go into the studio and we're going to do some of your songs.' This was, like, years ago.

"I started working for Warehouse Records, and they sell porno videos there. I remember the aggravation there. It was brewing inside me. Everyone was just mocking me there. I would always tell people about the Lord and stuff and they would always mock me. One day I wrote this song called 'Porno People'. I walked into my room and started playing it on the bass. I just thought, 'What would sound good with this?' and I just started playing it.

"A week later I went over to my brother's friend's house, who had a four-track studio, and I recorded 'Porno People' and two rap songs. Later I wrote 'Weeping And Gnashing Of Teeth'. A friend of mine, Garrin Saenz, wrote the music to 'Weeping...' I wrote 'Payment Of The Rich'. I wrote that when I was watching 'Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous'.

"Guido, the guy who introduced me to Stryper and basically brought me to the Lord, had his wedding at the Queen Mary. All these people were there, just decked out. There was like, over a thousand people there.

"There was like an all-star jam going with Oz, Timmy, and Michael W. Smith. Oz was playing rock and roll songs like 'Louie, Louie' and stuff. Burrito was there, and he said, 'Blair, do Porno People.'

"I said, 'No.'

"Then he got everybody in the

crowd to start chanting, 'Porno People, Blair, Blair.'

"Oz goes, 'Blair, you want to do a song?'

"I go, 'Yeah,' and I showed him real quick how to play it. Oz was kind of playing it and stuff, but I just shined down. They did their thing. Michael W. Smith was, like attempting to play drums.

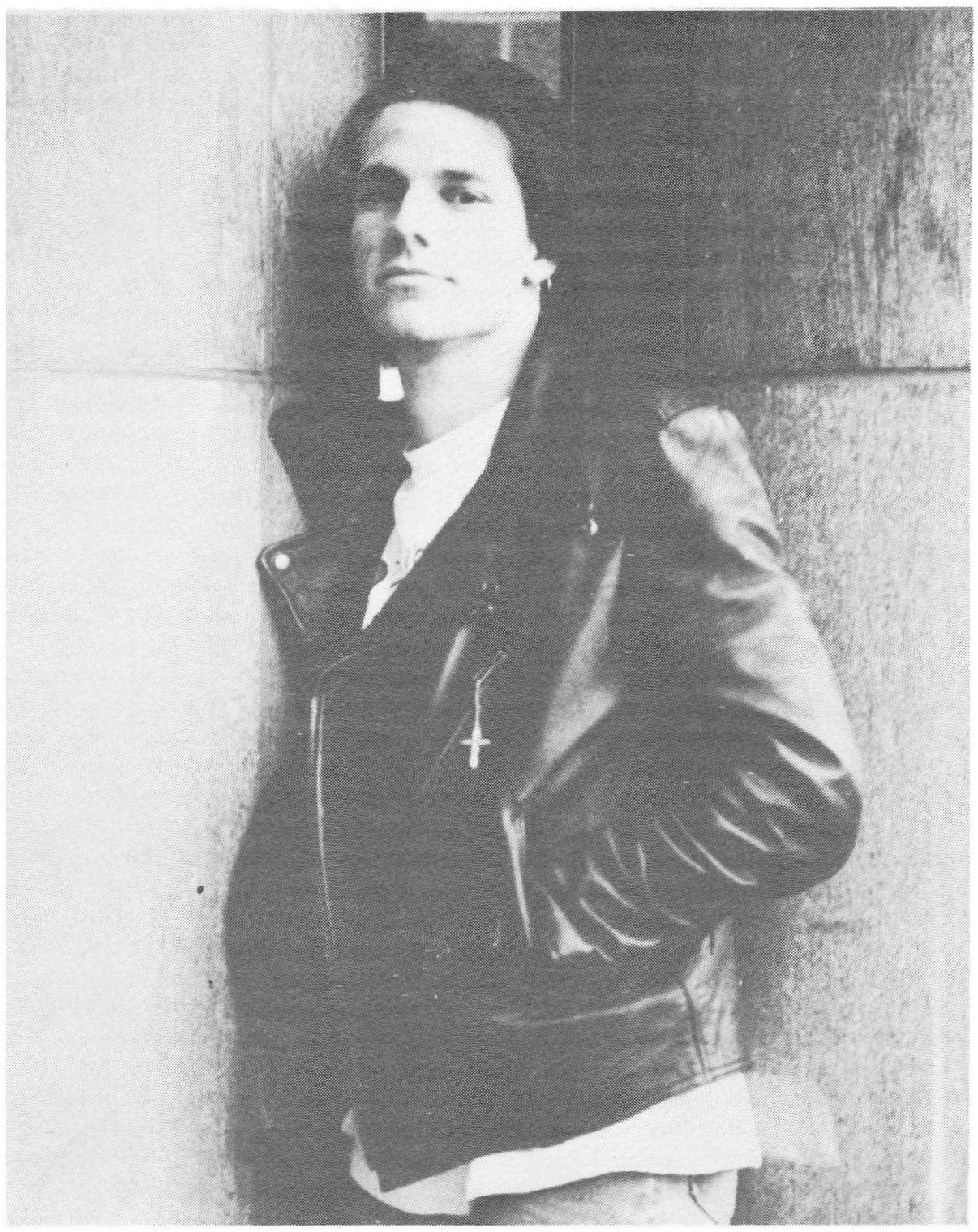
"It was after that night that I got such a good response from that song, that I said, 'So, Oz. Are you still up for going to the studio and doing some songs?'

"He said, 'Sure, I'll do it.'

"I said, 'Okay,' and it was that easy. I think about a month later we were in the studio doing it."

**Who all played on it?

"Sandra Pruitt, the girl who's tape I shopped, Carol Garrison, David Bach and Paul Cawley of Gardian, Burrito of The Warning, Brian Doidge, who used to play for the LifeSavors, and Oz Fox. While I'm listing names, I want to thank Scott Baldridge and Tom Gordon for all the massive help they've given to Blairing Out.



Eric Blair: The Man, The Myth.

Photo by Paul Ferguson

"In 'Porno People', the first two girls are Sandra and Carol. The second group of people is Paul, David and Burrito. The last guy, the one selling the video, is Oz."

**What kept you from officially releasing it?

"Oz didn't want me to release it because he wasn't completely happy with it. (I'm surprised. I enjoy it. It's got some of his trademark vibrato work on it.--editor) He thought it could've been a lot better, since we only practiced for one day before going in to do it."

Eric's latest plans are to record some new songs he's written. "Oz approached me at Michael Sweet Jr.'s first birthday party and said he wants to go into the studio and do some crazy stuff with that demo master. Maybe redo some backup vocals, like those backup vocals on 'Weeping...' Oz is dead determined to do this. Both Oz and Mike are going to be producing it."

The other things Eric is up to is playing live gigs. He recently did a show with Pat Nobody.

**What's the major focus of your lyrics? What do you really want to say?

"What I'm trying to say is, that if people don't repent, they're going to hell. I get a lot of flack from even some of my friends, who say, and a lot of lukewarm people say, 'Well, I think your lyrics are a little harsh. I think you should sing more about love.' I'm just really sick of these people that are lukewarm and think they can get away with it. You know, you can't get away with being lukewarm. You just can't. I mean, they think they can, and they are to some extent, getting away with it now. Ultimately, though, they are held accountable. They're going to have to give an account to God for what they did. We all are. I just think they need a kick in the butt. I think they need to hear 'You better get your act together.'

"When I write those songs, I'm thinking of people that are lukewarm. I know that, they'll still be saved. I don't know how you believe, but I believe that if a person is truly born again, he cannot lose his salvation, because then it wouldn't be a free gift. It says in the Bible, 'By grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works, lest any man boast.' My songs aren't just for the lukewarm people, but I think about a lot of people like that. That's pretty much who the songs are lashing out at. Overall, it's talking to people who are non-Christians too.

"I wrote 'Weeping And Gnashing Of Teeth' out of just pure frustration over people just mocking God. I used to sit with my Bible open and read it when I worked at the Warehouse. I'd be reading in the Bible that we can, like 'Drink poison and step on serpents' or whatever. One of the guys that I worked with came over to me and says, 'What are you reading?' I read it and he goes, 'Oh, does that mean that if I take this pencil and jab it into your arm right now that nothing will happen to you?'--stuff like that. I love them and stuff, like God, but it just really moved me to write that song. People think God's a joke. They think that Jesus is a joke. They don't know what they're playing with. You know what I mean? People are gonna be held accountable. I'm gonna be held accountable."

Describing Eric's music is not easy. "The music that God's given me I don't think it's like anybody else's music. I think it's different. When I first started out I thought it was going to be punk, but it didn't turn out completely punk. I was raised on a lot of punk bands. The only thing that's punk is really the vocals and some of the bass lines and stuff. I call it 'mondo music.' Mondo means, like a lot. It's got a lot of everything in it. It's got a lot of bass, a lot of guitar, a lot of drums, a lot of noise."

Emerald: All That Glitters Is Green

Emerald is a real hot band with a professional sound. They play a melodic brand of metal with enough guts and distortion to stand out from the crowd.

This band has had a well-produced six-song EP, entitled **"Armed For Battle"**, released for over a year now. The Christian underground hasn't really taken any notice yet. Therefore, this band of tight musicians are going to be an impressive surprise to many of you.

Armed For Battle is being distributed in Europe, selling well in Germany, Switzerland and Denmark.

Emerald is mostly known as a metal band first as far as the world knows. They've answered a call to be a band of Christians. It seems to be working. They're getting their message across Europe with their record and they're playing clubs in L.A. Last November they played with Y&T and Racer X.

This is an album that ought to be in your hands. Guitarist David Enos lays down some hot lead breaks in every song, especially impressive since he has to play the rhythms also. The guitar tone on almost every lead is very melodic and fluid.

Roger Martin, of Vengeance, laid down all the bass tracks on the album, except **Look To The Stars** and **We Attack.**

Currently the band is going into the studio to do some more songs. Hopefully Emerald will land a nice secular recording contract. Their music deserves it.

Armed For Battle starts off the record, letting you know you're listening to a hot piece of vinyl.

Teenage Suicide is a good song with chopping rhythms in the fast parts and smooth vocals and leads when the song slows.

We Attack is a pretty fast song with good drumming, a solid bass line and guitar riffing.

Look To The Stars has a classical intro, followed by some chords with some nice chorus echo effect. The music seems very Scorpions-influenced, which, in my opinion, is a very high compliment.

Winds Of Doom is a ballad with a powerful lead break near the end, followed by some melodic, breathing leads.

Judgement Day, the sixth and final song of the EP, starts off with a riff very similar to Michael Schenker's opening to **Lost Horizons.** The lyrical content is self-explanatory from the title.

The vocal sound on this record is competent, while the guitars literally steal the show. Each member put in a good performance when they recorded this. I bet these guys are incredible in concert!

They played at the recent His Fest II and, according to Christy Arnold, performed a strong set.

If you'd like to get a hold of this hot EP (on vinyl), send $5 to Emerald, PO Box 96, Fontana CA 92334.

Blairing Out cont'd

Originally, Eric made up 50 copies of the tape. He gave 25 away and sold 25. "I was going to make some more up, but then I saw that Number One Son was advertising that they had it. That really depressed me. It made me sad, because those guys are supposed to be a Christian organization. (Eric never gave them tapes to sell, not an uncommon occurrance with Number One Son I'm told. A lot of my friends, whose opinions I respect very much, warn everyone not to do business with Number One Son.--editor) Another thing that's stopped me from getting more tapes made up is the fact that Oz now wants to remix the tape."

Eric wants to tell all of those who have written him that he'll get back to you eventually. He's unable to right now. "I hope that everybody that has heard about Blairing Out or has heard the tape is living their lives for Jesus Christ. That's all that matters, ultimately. That's my biggest concern, because when I get some of these letters, I really feel accountable for all these kids and stuff. It's so important for people to go to church and stay in the Word. You need to be grounded."

Although he can't answer your letters, he will be sending tapes out to those who order. Again, I highly recommend getting this tape. It's a classic.

Metal Tracks

Bloodgood is finishing up their third album, entitled **"Rock In A Hard Place"**. It should be out in late June. Produced by Terry B. Shelton, the album is supposed to be melodic. According to Rex Scott of Zion, there's gonna be no speed-type metal (of the **Black Snake** or **Battle Of The Flesh** variety), but it's still gonna be Bloodgood. Maybe along the lines of **Alone In Suicide**? We'll see. The nine tracks are: **Shakin' It**, which is about God shaking the body of Christ; **Never Be The Same; The Presence; What Have I Done?; Heaven On Earth; Do Or Die; She's Gone; The World (Keeps Movin' Around)**; and **Seven.**

Stryper's In God We Trust should be out this June as well. It will be Benson's album of the month in Christian bookstores in June, with a price of $7.98. Speaking of Benson product, **Idle Cure**'s follow-up album should be out in July. Meanwhile, **Shout** and **Mark Farner** should be out by the time you read this.

"**Second Chance** is close to signing a record deal with K-Productions," says guitarist Mike Vance. "Paul Kruger will be producing (who's done work with THe Eagles, Joe Lynn Turner, and The Walk)."

Roxway, a new band from L.A., will release their debut album on the Master Metal label. They play "positive Christian metal" and promise that we'll recognize some of the band member's names when they debut.

Regency news: **Neon Cross** and **Contagious** are due out with full-length albums in May and June. **Mastedon** has agreed to do an album. An **East Coast Metal** album is going to be recorded soon. Doug Mann, President of R.E.X. Records, will be producing the album. The lineup looks like it's gonna be: Rage Of Angels; Trytan; Paradox (East Coast in Texas?); Taker (Alright!!!!); Believer (Speed kills); Arsenal; and The Lead.

The **Neon Cross** album will a full-length album, drawing off cuts from their "Frontline Life" demo, as well as their 1987 demo tape. The songs are: **Victory; Run Into The Light; We Are The Children** (One of my favorite picks); **Heartbroken; Far Cry From Eden** (An incredible display of David Reeves' vocal chords); **On Rock; Frontline Life; Out Of The Way**; and **I'm Not Alone.** It's got a real hot album cover, with a view of the earth from above, and a giant sword stuck in the continent. Neon Cross' name is lit up in the clouds above the scene. The cd for this album, like most of Regency's cd releases, will be $12.98. (It's time to buy a cd player).

The **Contagious** album, titled **"Free Indeed"**, is due out June first. It was produced by Randy Thomas and Contagious and recorded in Allies Recording Studio. Song titles include: **Free Indeed; Backslider; Turn; Hebrews 13:8; Building On The Rock; To The King; Fighting The Good Fight; Children Of The Father;** and **The Provider.**

Straight Way is a new Christian metal band from Houston, Texas. They've been together since early '87 and are currently working on an 8-song demo to shop. You can reach them by writing vocalist David Walton @ PO Box 24280, Houston TX 77229.

Rex Scott of **Zion** reports the good news that they've been signed to the newly-formed Image Records label on the East Coast. Both Zion and the label are real excited. The album may be out by early summer. Their demo tape is no longer for sale as a result.

Holy Right has ended as we know it. Vocalist Keith Miles is trying to reform with new members. Keith is also working on a compilation album of unsigned California bands, called "Metal Assault". It should come out in July and retail in stores for $8.98. It will feature **Spectra; First Aid; Antioch**; and, of course, **Holy Right.** You can pre-order it for only $5 plus $2 postage and handling by writing to: Holy Right, PO Box 520, Mira Loma CA 91752-0520.

Sacred Warrior's debut album, "Rebellion", should be out in late June. By the way, they sound a little bit like Helloween in certain places, because of their vocalist. Their tunes just smoke. Intense is gonna be a hot label.

Radicals For Christ have moved. Their new address is PO Box 1142, Victorville CA 92393.

Sentry is a new band from Massachussets. They're supposed to sound like Europe and are working on a tape. You can contact them in the meantime by writing their drummer, Jeff Stewart @ Eastern Nazarene College, 23 East Elm Ave, Quincy MA 02170.

Renaissance is a resource publication for Christian musicians. The premiere issue includes a catalog of teaching tapes, books and study courses specifically for Christian musicians and songwriters. Write: Christian Artists International, PO Box 2134, Lynnwood WA 98036.

Pure Metal is keeping busy this month. On the shelves you can find: Rosanna's Raiders' **Calling Down Fire** album; Bride's **Live To Die;** Saint's **Too Late For Living** (which presold 19,000 units); and the **Heavy Righteous Metal** album (which features: "Love On The Line" by Whitecross; "Rock For The Rock" by Rage Of Angels; "Hold On" by The Daniel Band; "In His Majesty's Service" by Jerusalem; "Too Late For Living" by Saint; "Metal Might" by Bride; "Metal Mission" by Tempest; "Heavy Metal Thunder" by Messiah Prophet; "We Are The Raiders" by Rosanna's Raiders.). Soon to hit the stores will be the new Whitecross EP, the album by Force III (a new band from Great Britain), and the long-awaited **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent** by Jerusalem. Advertised in the March issue of CCM was a Pure Metal ad, which advertised Bjorn Stigsson's album, and an album by **The Axemen.** Pure Metal has yet to finalize a distribution for Bjorn's album. The Axemen will be a compilation project featuring the best guitarists in Christian metal. It's in the planning stages for late this year.

Have you ever wondered who hangs those "John 3:16" banners behind the endzone at televised football games and other sports events? Well, one of 'em subscribes to Heaven's Metal. Do you want to hang a similar banner at a big sporting event, or have access to tickets, or want to know everything you need to know about doing it? Write Doug Hill @ 606 E. Sixth St, Marysville OH 43040 or call (513) 642-5580.

For those of you who wrote **Boanerges** (the Greek word for Sons of Thunder), but had your mail sent back, it may have been because of a mistake in their zip code that was printed in the last issue. Their correct address is: PO Box 199, Adkins TX 78101.

If you'd like to order **Stevie And The Saints**'s album, "Metal Blue", you can order it through Spring Arbor. The ISBN #'s are 000-688-0622 for the album, and 000-688-0444 for the cassette.

Stephanie Loro has tapes of her high-tech rock available for $8. 5523 N. 62nd Dr, Glendale AZ 85301.

Rizer has officially disbanded. Heather Parker, who worked with Rizer, is now starting a ministry on the occult and another band. Both will fit under Halo Ministries. Write 1025 West Cochise Dr #107, Phoenix AZ 85021, or call (602) 944-4791.

Robbie Bray, who sang for First Strike for awhile (apparently a temporary replacement between their "Rock Of Offense" album and their "Crank It Up" tape), has signed to Patmos Records. His debut album, promoted as "hard driving", will be called "Fall In Love". It will be distributed through Parallax Records. You can write Parallax @ PO Box 16387, Jackson MS 39236.

Messiah's "Final Warning" album, which Dave Johnson (White Throne Magazine) says is "melodic, poorly produced, yet a collector's item", is available for $9.98 plus $1.50 postage by writing Vortexx, 12129 Genesee St, Alden NY 14004.

Metal Mania, a secular metal magazine with wide distribution, has a column called "Demo-Derby", in which they review demo tapes by unsigned bands. Here's your chance bands! Get some secular press for your demo. Send demos and/or press kits to: Demo Derby, c/o Metal Mania, 6565 Sunset Blvd. #520, Hollywood CA 90028.

Abortion Is Murder! Help stop it by volunteering your time to pro-life organizations for speaking, office work, counseling, or whatever your talents may be. Contribute money. Saving babies costs money!

THERE IS METAL...

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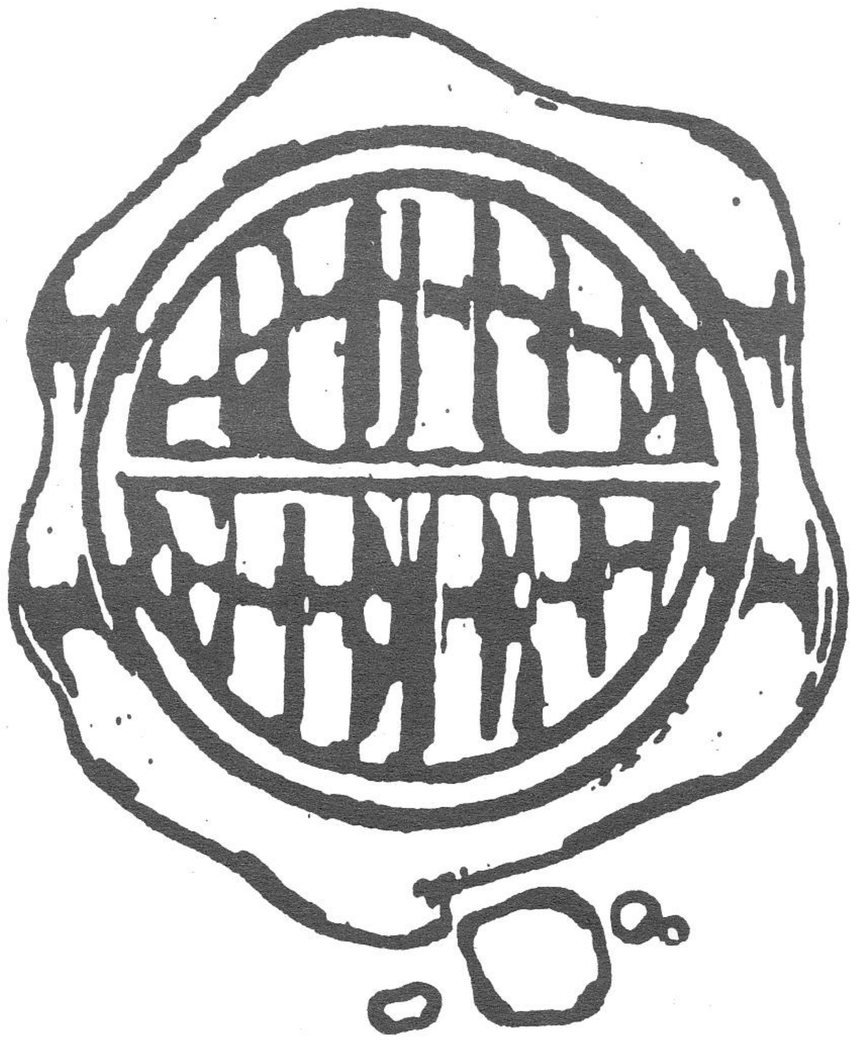

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SOLDIER

Pictured left to r
Cutting; Terry
Patrick; Jamie C
Robbins.

right are: Michael
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The Mighty Sound Of Barren Cross

Barren Cross is on the road. Iron Maiden: watch out! This band smokes live, and they're aggressively fighting the powers of darkness. "We're expecting to minister to as many metalheads as possible," says bassist Jim LaVerde, "to win them to the Lord."

**Doug: What do you expect to see on the road? (Asked after their first gig of the tour, at Dallas in early March.)

"I think our first time out," guesses Jim, "we'll probably be playing venues like Theater Gallery here tonight. Probably to about the same size crowd tonight (200). We'll have bigger crowds in places like Chicago, where we've played before."

**Bob: Have you seen a lot of fruit on the road? (Asked over a month later into the tour in Chicago.)

"A lot of seeds have been planted," says drummer Steve Whitaker. "A lot of kids that maybe couldn't be reached by other bands are coming to Barren Cross and are able to hear the message. We really feel our calling is to get out there and plant some seeds. A lot of the kids who've already been to Stryper shows--we're reaping a harvest of some of those kids...from the seeds that Stryper had planted. We're hoping to do the same, where other bands will come along and pick up from there. We had an altar call in Decatur, Illinois. A lot of kids came forward."

**Bob: Is that an ordinary occurance?

"Pretty much nowadays it is, because of the secular shows that we're doin'. We're really trying to draw the secular person to the show. We have a basic set, as far as music goes on the tour, but we never say whether or not we'll have an altar call. It really depends on the situation. You can just tell. If there's some kids out there with some big needs, you feel it. We'll say, 'If you wanna know more about the Lord,' and then explain it to 'em. That's why we're out there, so if the Spirit gives us that opportunity, we definitely take advantage of that. If there's one person that's out there that wants to accept the Lord, that's why we're here."

**Doug: Tell me about the album.

"It's filled with issues," says Jim. "From abortion to teen suicide, drug addiction, the cults today and where they're going. We had gotten a lot of people today that have asked me if Barren Cross was watering down our message or if we weren't staying solid as we did with **Rock For The King**. What we all believe about this album is it's practical. It's applicable. It is Christianity in movement. It's what happens after you become a Christian: You've gotta deal with a lot of issues. Through the songs, we're saying, 'This is how you deal with this issue. This is what God expects.' For example, **Killers Of The Unborn**. This is God's view on it. This is a Biblical viewpoint.

"To the people out there: 'We're not in any way watering down our message by not putting a **Give Your Life To Jesus** on this album. We put a song on there called **King Of Kings** and we put it there for a reason. We felt, that the Lord really needed to be glorified in the midst of all the issues."

"Atomic Arena didn't come out as planned," says Steve. "It just kind of evolved with the issues that are on the album. The next album will just be a collaboration of what Mike, Jim, Ray and I come up with."

**Bob: Plans for the next album?

"That's a bit premature right now," says Steve, "but we've been talking about it the past couple of days. We've been kinda workin' on new tunes and telling new ideas to each other. It's been kinda different on the road, because when we write songs at home, we write 'em on our own. We don't communicate much. We'll come to practice and say, 'I've written a song. Here, check it out.' This time it's kinda neat, because we're all together on the road. I'll go, 'Ray, what kind of guitar licks do you have for songs?' He'll play a little riff in the dressing room or something. I'll go, 'That's cool. I've got something that'll fit with that. It's been really neat. We're working more together now. The tour's really drawing us closer together. It's real exciting.

"It's really weird playing a home show. It seems like Jesus: He was accepted elsewhere better than He was at home. When we came on the road, we weren't expecting anything as far as crowd response. I'll look out at the audience and 350 kids know every word to the songs and they're singin' along. It fills me with such joy. It's incredible."

Doug: I understand that a station in Oklahoma will not play **Heaven Or Nothing, because they don't agree theologically with the lyrics.

"I don't know anything about that. It's a love song. It's about somebody who is a Christian and who knows what heaven's like. They're basically describing this woman as something awesome and heaven is a term for that.

"We get prejudged by the secular audience, and the Christian audience looks at us with a fine-tooth comb and a magnifying glass, just trying to find something wrong, something that's unbiblical. At times it's great, because it keeps us on our toes. We need to stay Biblical.

"Personally, I had a problem with the lyrics of Heaven Or Nothing. That's why I wrote **King Of Kings**. It's a statement I think needs to come across. I wanted to make sure that our album had that. I was blessed in the studio. When I got home and listened to it for the first time, I just prayed that the Lord would show me what this album's all about. I was blessed. **In The Eye Of The Fire** was changed. It was originally **In The Eye Of The Fish**, which didn't have any specific meaning to the lyrics. Mike changed the lyrics to In The Eye Of The Fire. It just knocked my socks off the first time I heard the lyrics. It's just a real happy song.

"I just did my drum tracks. I prayed that God would lead Mike, Jim and Ray on their own. The only time I was there was when Mike sang King Of Kings, 'cause I was concerned that he would sing it the way I wrote it. When I first wrote the song and presented it to the band, I first sang it in the right key. It's weird, 'cause Mike can do all kinds of things with his songs, but when Ray or I write a song, it's difficult for him to adapt to certain things. When we recorded the song, he hit it exactly the way I perceived when God gave me the song. It came out exactly like it. I was just blown away."

*Doug: Do you feel like Enigma's excited about you or are you just another band on their label?

"I feel like Enigma's very excited about Barren Cross," says Jim, "because, first of all, we're on the road and we're touring. I feel like Barren Cross is original and I feel like they're excited about that. Plus, just being a Christian band also. They know it's gonna sell albums. Them not being a Christian company, the biggest thing they're concerned about is money. They know that they're gonna pull in a lot from this album. That's not our first motive. Our first motive is to see kids come to know the Lord. Their first motive is to get money and sell albums, but they don't realize that that's furthering our ministry. They're real excited about it."

**Doug: Do they have plans to put some publicity dollars in it?

"Steve and I have done myriads of interviews with different metal magazines like Metal Edge, Metal Hammer, and a lot of overseas publications. A lot of that is starting to happen. Just like any record company, they wanna wait and see exactly what the record is going to do before they go ahead and invest thousands and thousands of dollars into it for advertisements in major publications."

**Doug: How do you minister? How do you prepare for that?

"I think it's different each time," says Jim. "I don't necessarily get up and read the same passage every single time. I read the same passage tonight that I've read in a lot of other concerts. Whatever the Lord is laying on our hearts, we talk about. Same thing with Ray. He doesn't say the same thing every time. We spend some time in prayer and ask the Lord for some sensitivity on what to say."

**Doug: What goes on in your mind when you're on stage?

BARREN CROSS

LTOR: MIKE LEE, STEVE WHITAKER, RAY PARRIS, JIM LAVERDE

"Before you go on stage, the thing that goes through your mind is excitement and your heart beats really fast. You wanna get out there and just do a good show. You get this feeling. It's kind of like a natural high that you go through. It's weird to be backstage and to watch everything that goes on and people running back and forth. Then, when you go on, all of it goes out into the audience in the form of energy. That's what the whole show is. After the third or fourth song, you start getting real comfortable playing and then the show becomes fun. Once the show becomes fun, you can relax and start playing better. The first couple songs, I think for any band, are really rough. They're kinda workin' out the knick-knacks."

Anybody who's seen Barren Cross live knows they do a unique rendition of Jimi Hendrix's **Purple Haze:** "Jesus Christ, all through my brain/ Since I've known Him, things don't look the same/ My life is real, and I know just why/ Excuse me, while I lift Him high/ Jesus Christ, all around/ God rules, Think I'll go and tell the town/ Yeah, I'm happy, my eyes can see/ Whatever it is, God came, put a smile on me/ Jesus Christ, all in my eyes/ Now I know, if it's day or night/ You got me free, You blow my mind/ No sorrow, can't wait till end of time."

**Doug: What do you think about the California Christian metal scene?

"I think it's a fantastic thing," says Jim. "First of all, cause we have a church that's backing it up. Inside the church, we have about 17 bands right now. The **California Metal** album really broke it loose, I think. Which, for the record, they're starting **California Metal II.** I think they're gonna get Soldier or Crossforce. It's a real major movement right now.

"We're starting a church in Tampa Bay. Pastor Bob is going to be flying out there to start that."

**Doug: What creates the need for a Sanctuary?

"A body. If you have a body of believers that have one thing in common and that don't have a shepherd...there's a definite need for it right here. I've been talking to people about getting a Bible study started and start to pray that God would raise up a minister of the gospel here. There's a lot of kids here that would just love to have a heavy metal church. One of the biggest things that we've gotta see happen first is to see a shepherd raised up by the Lord. Somebody that's not ultra-charismatic, but not somebody that's, you know, real Baptist. Somebody that's real balanced in the middle of it all. That's what we're looking for. Sanctuary's a real credible source. We have a 40-page doctrinal statement."

**Doug: Tell me about your equipment and playing technique.

"I use some slapping techniques for my solos. As far as gear, I play a G&L Interceptor bass. It goes through a 85-1 wireless system. It goes through a Gametry RB-800 stereo power amp. I play through two 10's and an 18. I play Roland 250 keyboards with horsepedals. Ray uses Mesa Boogie equipment with rack effects, etc. He plays a Jackson. Steve plays Remo drums with Sabian cymbals. Mike plays electric pencil sharpener."

**Doug: How did you prepare your set before starting the tour?

"We sat down and looked at the whole set in general. A set usually lags right in the middle, so we put **Cultic Regimes** dead center, 'cause that song's probably the most lively one that we have. There's disagreement like, 'I think this song should go here and this song should go there,' but at the end there's always an agreement upon how the set's gonna go. Once you have the set down, it never changes through the whole tour. It stays the same."

**Doug: I like the way you run songs together.

"Yeah, that's what you do. You form endings and you form intros and you kind of mesh 'em together. That forms a tighter set. Tonight it was a little rough, 'cause the p.a. system was making funny noises."

**Doug: Prayer requests?

"First one is safety. Pray that God allows us to get from concert to concert safe. We've had quite a few problems in the last four days with just different things happening: tires going flat; running out of gas in the middle of the desert. Just pray for safety. We need some of those Christians out there binding the enemy from messing with our ministry that God has placed in our midst.

"Another one too is for finances. That the Lord would just bless us financially, so that we can just keep going. That's an obvious one."

**Doug: Tell me about your sponsorship, Steve. How'd that come about? How well do they treat ya?

"All my endorsements right now are 'B endorsements'," replies Steve, "which mostly is a 50%, 60% or cost. Initially I got my first endorsement with Vic Firth. Basically, I just wrote them a letter 'cause I was breaking sticks and spending an awful lot of money each show and each rehearsal time. I went to a local shop and I investigated all the different manufacturers and brands of sticks and came across Vic Firth and used the same pair for three months. I knew there was something special about this stick and I just prayed about it and I was honest in my letter. I said, 'I love your stick and this is my situation. I'm in Barren Cross and this is what we're doing.' He wrote me back a personal letter and said, 'We'd like to work with you. Give me a call.' It started from there. I basically did the same thing with all the other companies. Now I have Vic Firth, Remo, Sabian, Drum Workshop for my pedals, and Color Rock, which is Drum Workshop's cage system. God's just really opened some doors for me to save an expense on what I have. It helps further my career and the ministry as a band."

Steve's kit looks really unique. He has his two bass drums almost completely facing opposite directions, plus they're separated by about four feet!

"I got the idea from another drummer in L.A., who had a similar thing, but his weren't functional. I want everything on my kit to be functional. I called Drum Workshop, who makes one of the best pedals, I think, on the market. They said they would custom make extension pedals. One going to the left and one going to the right, so I can have my bass drums way out. The purpose of that was so I could lower my tom toms, so I'd be more visible to the audience and they'd be more visible to me. When I get behind my drumset, I'm usually real shy. Each time we play, it causes me to be more communicative to the audience. It's kind of a blessing for me to be able to be part of that."

**Doug: What keeps you going?

"Definitely the blessings that the Lord has," says Steve. "This band is a band that ministers to kids. When kids come to the concert, whether there's 10 or 10,000, it doesn't make any difference. We make the choice to come out. If Satan's trying to stop us from going any further, we're not going to give up. God's bigger than anything. He proved that to us today. I had my doubts personally that things weren't gonna happen and they did! It was God. He'll always come through. There's just abundant blessings every show. I don't think it could get much worse than it has been the past three days. I don't think there's gonna be any more problems."

**Doug: What is your comment or word to the body about what went on with Jimmy Swaggart?

"Well, I just feel good in a sense, because I think a lot of people were looking at Jimmy Swaggart instead of lookin' to the Lord solely, as a personal relationship. I think it was a good thing to happen. It humbled Jimmy Swaggart and I have my own personal feelings, but it's really between him and God. I'm glad a lot of people are now turning to the Lord and not looking towards man. We're just Barren Cross. All the other Christian bands, Jimmy Swaggart, and every other tv evangelist: we're all the same people. We're all humans. We're all under God. We're not above God or the same as God. People need to realize that. We're just instructors. Our mission as Barren Cross, is to proclaim who Jesus Christ is and why He died and what it means. We're just trying to show that, along with some other issues. That's all we are. We're just messengers and pastors. I'm glad it happened. Really. I think

God's cleanin' house. I think people need to look to the Lord and not towards man, no matter how spiritual they seem to be. We all sin. There's no two ways about it."

Doug: Do you have any plans with **Killers Of The Unborn? Like activism?

"There's been talk with right-to-life people. Pastor Bob Beeman is involved with the people who deal with that. I hope so. I really do. I hope a lot of the songs will be used. That's what they're there for. Killers Of The Unborn wasn't a gimmick. It wasn't a song to get radical play on the radical hardcore stations. It's a song that means something. We believe very strongly against abortion. It's not just Killers Of The Unborn. It's all our songs. I hope they would be used. I hope somebody would take that. The heavy metal person would hear the message, who otherwise may not or may not care much about it. We're seeing some impact from it already. Some kids just think it's a rad song. Some women and other people have been really touched. We played San Francisco a few weeks ago and a girl came up after the show and said, 'Will you sign an autograph for my unborn child?' She's pregnant. She wasn't planning an abortion, but it touched my heart that she even said that. Whatever the Lord wants to do. I think the Lord wrote the song and He has it on this album for a reason. If it gets used, that's great."

**Anything on your heart you'd like to express to the readers?

"Seek the Lord and please pray for us. That the Lord would keep us safe and healthy.

"Some secular people are showing some interest, because of the airplay we're getting. Rapture is opening. They own the lighting and p.a. system. We're going to be filming a video the second week in May, probably Heaven Or Nothing. We'll film it in New York, while we're up there."

Keep an eye on California. Some more bands are sure to break out of this state with record contracts. One thing to observe about this state's metal is that there are so many bands that the competition is fierce. The bands know that their music must be that much hotter to get noticed, therefore we hear high quality music coming out of this state.

Photo courtesy Colin Zacharias

Bloodgood's New Lineup?
Bloodgood is changing their sound a little bit, but not their lineup. Pictured with Mike and Les are the grandmother and father of subscriber Colin Zacharias.

Metal Tracks

Rapture, the sometimes thrash/sometimes melodic metal band, has been opening up for Barren Cross lately. Rapture owns a high-quality sound system and, after talking to BC's booking agent Joe Blalock, were asked to tour with BC as the sound and light company. As part of the deal, Rapture has been able to do an opening set, along with numerous local bands around the country.

Bob Hopkins asked vocalist Paul Scozzafava if he'd seen a lot of people's lives change on the road lately. "We've seen a lot of people make commitments," answers Paul. "We can't really hang out and see the change, 'cause we're just splittin'. We see people who we feel really have a desire to know God. Back home we've seen lives change. We've seen the church fill up with long hairs. It's real cool, 'cause they tell their friends."

Undercover will be re-issuing their first two albums (Undercover and God Rules) on a double cassette and cd package entitled **Volume I.** It's over 70 minutes long and includes three previously unreleased songs. Should be out June 20th.

Graceland will soon be opening a music hotline. Dial (312) BIG-RAGE and hear new Intense and Graceland music plus catch up on the latest label news. That means you can hear the new Vengeance over the phone before it's released!

Near Mesa, Arizona comes **Death Denied**, yet another thrash band.

If you'd like to order **Lightforce**'s tape, send $10 cash or an international money order for A$12.70 (Australian Dollars) to: Lightforce, PO Box 83, Moorabbin, VIC 3189, Australia.

Bands that want to try to get their product distributed through Spring Arbor: send Mike Delaney a copy of your music. Write: Spring Arbor, 10885 Textile Rd, Belleville MI 48111-0985, Attention: Mike Delaney. Give it a shot! Sow your seeds widely. Get your product to the movers and the shakers of the industry!

Due to the increase in postal rates and the fact that I lose a tremendous amount of money on each foreign subscription (at $1.96 per issue, it's easy to see how $8 for a 6-issue subscription is a losing venture.), **subscription prices will be going up** with the next issue. Domestic subs will increase from $6 to $7.77 (Texas residents add 7 1/4% sales tax) and overseas subs will increase from $8 to $16. Canadian subs will be $8.

This is the 16th issue of Heaven's Metal, and it's 3rd birthday.

Longhairs For Christ is a ministry to the body of Christ, with an emphasis on outreach. They've got a hot magazine called "Black And White", which features lots of articles on California's Christian metal bands. You can write them at 1436 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA 91505.

Paradox pre-concert patience. Pic 1-r: Fernando, lead guitar; Manual, vocals; Phil, bass, keys; Tim, rhythm guitar (not in band anymore); Ephrain, drums. Photo by Liz Vidaurri

Rob Castles Band

Rob Castles Band, formerly the Rob Cassels Band, is going for a new market. This band can be considered one of the founders of Christian rock. They're taking their 11 years experience in Christian music and taking it into the clubs, doing covers of Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Bad Company, Whitesnake, The Beatles, mixing these with their hot Southern-fried originals.

"We have not left the faith, as some have said. We believe in evangelism now more than ever. It is just that we are not actively pursuing Christian concerts. For the last 5 months we've been going exclusively into clubs and opening for major artists. We've had the chance to share the Gospel with groups like The Outlaws, Nantucket, Steppenwolf, and others. We don't preach from stage anymore, but we are spending time in getting to know people and share the Gospel with folks individually. We are tempted almost every night with sex, drugs and many other things, yet we've seen people touched by the Lord in these places." They truly appreciate your prayers as they work in this harvest field.

Rob Castles Band has released three albums: "Evening Pastoral" on Sword Records (hard to find); "Kamikaze Christian"; and "Off The Wall" (both on Morada Records). You can write the band at: 236 Fernleaf Dr, Travelers Rest SC 29690.

Charizma is coming to U.S. soil this summer. They'll be talking to record companies and playing gigs. So far, they'll be in New York, Washington D.C. (for a concert sponsored by Rizzen Roxx), Austin, Dallas, and L.A. Rumor has it that they're interested in vocalist Robbie Brauns (ex-Holy Soldier, H.E.R.O.). If you know of a promoter or someone who'd be willing to set up a gig for 'em, write Charizma, c/o Daniel Nordstrom, P1. 6511 Ersmark, 902 66 UMEA, Sweden.

Eric Brooks And Omega Star have released a tape. Rock and roll for $3.50. Send check or money order to: Keith Brooks, c/o GSI Ministries, PO Box 1427, Bowling Green Station, New York NY 10274-1427. (I haven't heard it nor checked it out)

Charizma gearing up for their first U.S. tour!

Metallizing Steve Taylor's Clones:

Whitecross On The Road

So, Whitecross is on the road and is playing in front of many of their fans across the globe. How's it going guys? "So far it's great," says bassist Jon Sproule, three gigs into the tour.

"We're really burning the candle at both ends," says master guitarist Rex Carroll. "We want more sleep. Steve is great."

Sleep is right. In Dallas, their third day on the tour, the band had spent a total of about six hours in sleep. Whitecross is independantly touring as an opening act. They get paid $500 a gig if they show up. They haul their own equipment to each town. "At the end of each night," says Rex, "they'll say, 'See ya in Atlanta'" (or wherever they're headin' next).

Being on the road is something the guys will have to get used to, especially Scott. He was walking around with heavy eyelids backstage after the show. "When I was young," admits Scott, "I'd go see people and they'd be down and dragging. Now I can understand how they can be kind of down from the drain of being on the road. I used to think they should seem happy because they're a Christian and a model, but I can see now how it happens. They've gotta draw from something, 'cause touring is a drain. That something is God. We have Bible studies. If it wasn't for those, I don't think I could go out there. I know my church back home is praying for me.

"I spent time with David Zaffiro at Cornerstone and he said, 'What's today?' and I thought he was joking. If I didn't carry a calendar with me, I wouldn't know what day it was. When you do it day after day after day, every day is the same. When I have my life at home, I know that church is Wednesday night and Sunday morning. They help me keep my schedule. When every night is the same, it's like, 'Wow!' It's really hard to keep track.

"I make it sound so negative, but it's so rewarding, too. When you realize that what you're doing is tellin' kids the truth, when they're hearing a lie in many other places. It makes it all worth it."

Whitecross appreciates and depends upon your prayers. They are taking and posting a list of their prayer needs at their concessions table. "That's the only reason we're here," says Scott, "'cause someone's prayin'. To go on tour like this has always been my dream ever since I was a little kid. Somehow I knew that I was supposed to be doin' this. I just didn't see it happening with my human eye. If you give Him your life, He'll just take it and do His will. That's what I tell bands when they ask me, 'How do you do this? How'd you get started? We wanna do this.' I just tell 'em: 'Get close to God and pray for God's will to be done. When that happens, if it's God's will for you to be in a band and to be the next Stryper, who's gonna stop God?'"

The band is almost finished with this tour, which ends in Australia. They'll be back home by the time you read this. "We're gonna spend two weeks in pre-production and go into the studio," says Rex. "Our agent's working on a Fall tour right now. He's got some dates booked all ready."

**How do things look for touring with Degarmo and Key this Fall? I know you had a trial date with them earlier.

"We did a trial date with D&K. Steve is rock and roll, but D&K is just too laid back. There was too much polarization. They didn't think it was such a hot idea. It was funny, 'cause we did the date and we come out blaring away and we're like ready to slap hands in the front row and kids didn't know whether they're allowed to have fun or not. Their hair was blown back."

**How's the audience response been on this tour?

"The response to Whitecross has been very gratifying," says Rex. "It's been nice. We've been selling a lot of tickets for Steve. Without Steve inviting us on the tour, there's no other way it would have been possible for us to come and play at these gigs. Maybe now we can do a month's touring in the Fall. Now that Taylor has kicked in, created suction to the show, the LP is pulling more suction all the time. The market suction is happening. We're pulling some kids. I think it's a little bit soft so far on these three dates. I haven't seen any sellouts yet. Hopefully, Chicago will be a sellout. This is gonna build it. Now we're gonna be able to jump to a headline tour in the Fall. We're not gonna make any money on that one, I think, 'cause we're gonna need another vehicle."

**How do you guys write a song?

"With cattle prods applied to us. It's like, 'We need a new album in June.'

"'Okay, we'll get started.'

"We have to write on the road. We've been told explicitly to do it. We've been working on new material. It took two years to get that first album. I had all the time in the world to make sure that stuff was right. It's like sophomore jinx time. We finished the album and it was like we had to force-feed the rehearsals for Cornerstone '87. After that we disappeared for about a month, 'cause we were all sick of each other. It was like 'boom!' Gigs started happenin' right away. We thought we'd get a big stretch over Christmas time, but it never materialized, 'cause they kept booking more gigs. Then it was like, 'Well, we'll have all Spring to work on the material.' Then Steve called. It's like, 'Well, we'll get the album done around August.' Then it was, 'Well, if you guys are gonna do a Fall tour, we need the album in August.' So, we're gonna have to get it done some time on the road."

That's quite a demand on a traveling guitarist and author. Author? Oh yeah, Rex has published a book for guitarists. It's a guitar manual called "The Metal Madness Guitar Manual".

"I found the manual impressive and well-written," says "Fast Fern" (Fernando Hernandez), the guitarist for **Paradox**. "I would recommend it to guitar players that are into speed drills and fast runs. I can see how it would help the player who wants to get ahead fast. I found the Mixolydian and Dorian mode very intricate. The lead on Nagasake was not only powerful, but very inspiring, shades of Van Halen's "Eruption" solo and Randy Rhoads with a tab of Steve Vai thrown in. This book, take note, is not for beginners, but advanced players only. Overall, it's a great guitar book and I highly recommend it."

Rex decided to write it, because "I've been a teacher for five years. These are things that I've been teaching students all along. It's a resource. I read the magazines and what they publish doesn't really help you get your chops together. This is my idea of what'll do it. This is what works for me. I feel that there's a need. If it goes well, I'll get it published and go for it. This one is hand-written. I threw it together before the tour. I thought it would be fun to have it and get a charge out of seeing people react to the idea. I also thought it'd be fun to see if anybody's getting anything out of it down the road. If a year from now some guy goes, 'This has really helped me out a lot,' that'd be really great.

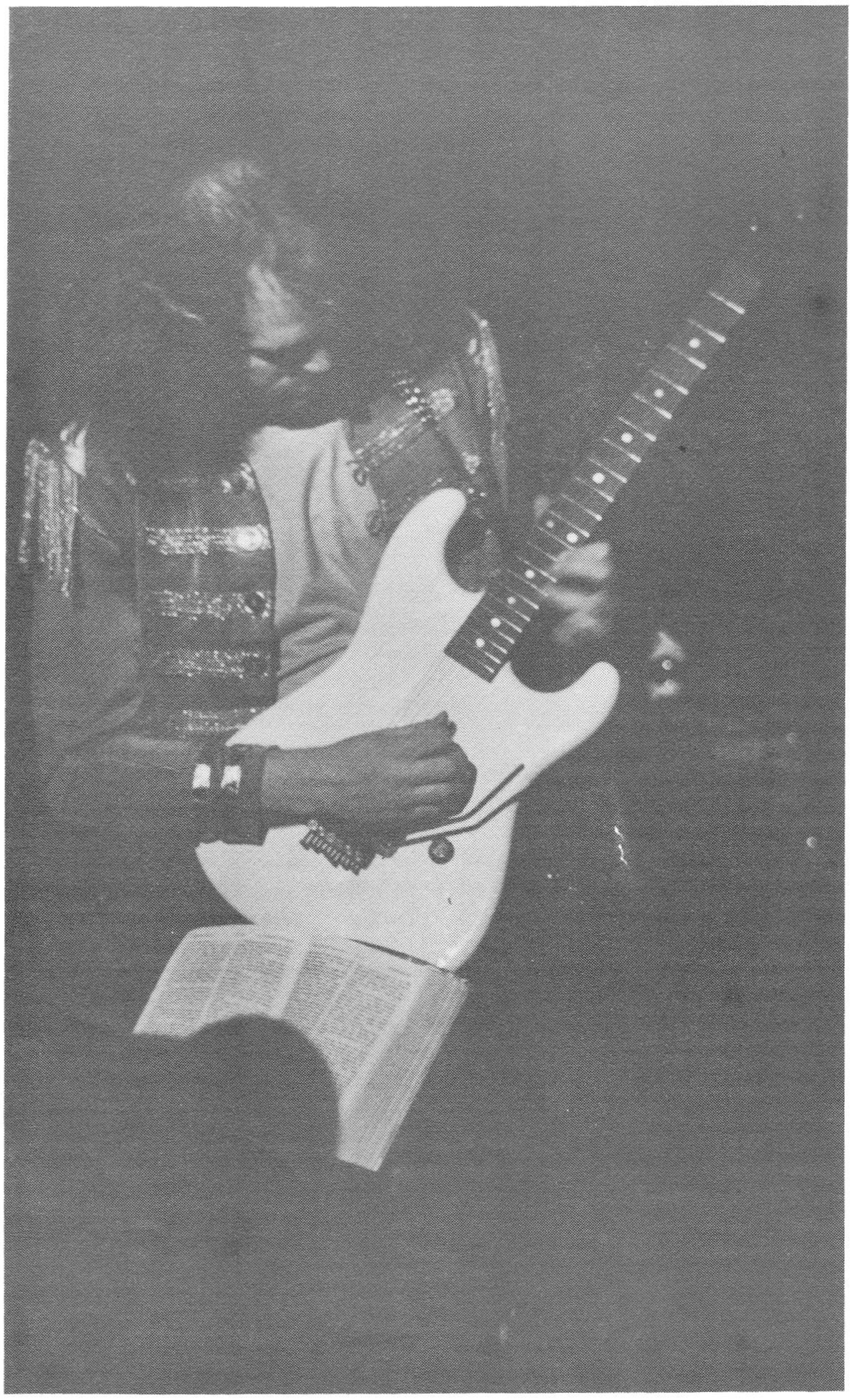
"This book is for guys who know what they're doing. There are things that are relative to these topics that I did not cover, like the finger positioning, and holding fingers down on the fingerboard. That's one thing that a serious guitarist would already know. This book is designed for advanced players, guys who have been playing for five years already. Not for a guy who's been playing for one year--it'd be over his head."

I asked Rex if he'd finally tell me what the backwards message was on the album, and he told me that they'd probably reveal the answer on the second album--backwards. "That way kids who kinda like the first album and are maybe thinking of buying the second album will get it just to find out the answer."

I hope you got a chance to see

Scotty Wenzl in Sweden

Photo by Daniel Nordström



The Biblical Approach To Metal

Photo by Curtis Tarpley

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Whitecross open for Steve Taylor. If you didn't, be sure to pick up their new EP, **Love On The Line.** The album cover is going to have the alley shot photo that was featured in the CCM article on Whitecross.

Sanctuary's toll-free number is

1-800-548-5222

Azusa Street Band, a rock band, has a tape called "Yield". You can get an order form for it by writing Mark Orr, the manager, @ PO Box 1263, Pontiac MI 48056-1263.

Linear Action Band is an 80's rock band with a tape out called "Hit The Wall". Straight-ahead rock for $7 plus $1 postage. Write: Linear Action, 395 Meadow Lane, Hastings MI 49058.

Freedom '88 is a three-day festival in Ontario Canada on June 24, 25, and 26. Featured are: Bloodgood; Barren Cross; Altar Boys; Servant; The Awakening; and more. For more info, contact Bingeman Park, 1380 Victoria Street North, Kitchener, Ontario Canada N2B 3E2. They're having a new talent showcase, which you can find out more about by calling (416) 382-3473.

Paradox has one of those problems a lot of other bands would like to have: they're being talked to seriously by four different labels. Pray for wisdom for them. They had a very favorable writeup, complete with photo, in Kerrang! #173. They have played a lot of gigs this Spring. One such gig, in a local club here in Austin, was part of a huge recording music industry conference called "South By Southwest". They, along with the Paul Q-Pek Band, were the only Christian bands among over 200 playing in Austin during the three-day conference. They put on an absolutely killer show. They've nailed down the sound on their Ruler tape, performing each song with tightness, yet still having a spontaneous feel. Especially commendable was Manuel's voice (Thanks to those lemons mixed with honey. Oops! It's not a secret recipe anymore, is it Manuel?), because this was their third show in three days. They played the previous two nights in Dallas at The Theater Gallery. To order their "too good to be a demo" tape, send whatever you can afford to Paradox, 2641 Nacogdoches, San Antonio TX 78217.

Spiritual Warfaring With Jerusalem

By Daniel Nordström

The Swedish White Metal pioneers, Jerusalem, have never been afraid to say what they like. They have never put their Christian faith under the chair. They have been famous as a metal version of the Salvation Army and many people have turned to God after they have listened to the message that Jerusalem preaches.

Their new album, **"Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent"**, is their best, with powerful music and lyrics. The people of the Swedish church, though, don't like it. In fact, every Christian store in Sweden boycotts "Dancing On The Head..."

The cover shows a very goulish-looking fellow, kind of like a vampire, dressed in a tux. He's being trampled on by a person wearing army boots. One boot is firmly planted on the guy's neck and the other foot is raised in the air, about to be smashed back into the guy's body. The guy, obviously portraying Satan, has scales on his arms as well as on his back, which is visible through a giant rip in his suit. It's an incredibly violent painting, without being overtly bloody. It puts across the point with much impact.

"We boycott the album because it's absurd," says Hasse Torstensson, of Sweden's greatest Swedish stores, Libris. "The album is too centered around hell and the devil. By the way, I also think that the devil has more power. We can't stand and jump on his head."

The members in Jerusalem are not surprised over the reactions.

"No, that's what we thought would happen," says Jerusalem drummer, Michael Ulvsgard. "It's a strong cover and you don't swallow it just like that. If you do , then it is something strange."

**Do you understand the critics, Michael?

"No, I can't understand them. I mean, the cover is Biblical. We have not made this cover to get publicity. We did it because the devil has never got so big a power in the world before. Us Christians must dare to stand up and show the devil that his place is under our feet."

**Is this the right way to proclaim the good news?

"Yes. We must break the devil's power in this world. Covers like 'Dancing On The Head' really teases him."

Two years ago, Jerusalem went to Uppsala for a Bible school, which is driven by Livets Ord (The Words Of Life), a Christian new movement that has been a hot subject for discussion and criticized in many ways. Livets Ord is influenced by the American hell-fire sermon preachers.

**A lot of people say that Jerusalem have been changed since they started in the Bible school. What do you say?

"One thing that is changed with Jerusalem today is that we are working harder for Jesus. We have never worked so hard and we also see the results. We have never before seen so many people saved during our concerts and we have never before seen so many people getting healed. These things are positive and I can't understand why other Christian brothers complain when we are helping the unsaved. What's wrong with that?" asks Michael.

**Is it true that Livets Ord educates their pupils that it is good and from God to beat children?

"You shouldn't believe everything that the newsmagazines write. I have never heard of any one of the leaders say that you should beat

children. I have just been a father myself for the first time, and the last thing I want to do is hurt my child."

**Why do you think that the Christian stores have boycotted "Dancing..."?

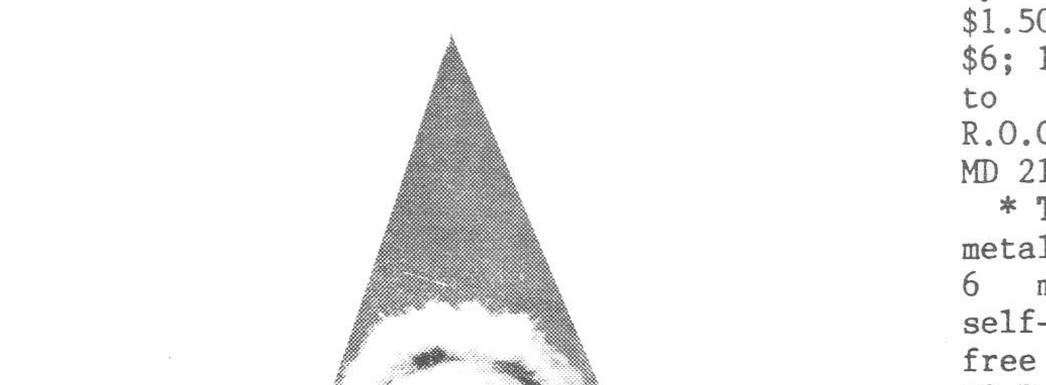
"We made the devil look very human on the cover. It's the same message as Stryper's 'To Hell...' If we had made the devil with a tail, horns and with a trident in his hand, I'm sure that no one would have said anything."

**Jerusalem have just made a video to "Dancing On The Head..." that has been sent to Swedish television, but it has not been showed yet. What is the video about? Are you guys jumping on the head of the devil?

"No (laughter), but the devil is in the video. He is sitting and manipulating people, but the Christian crowd is removing him from the throne."

Jerusalem--with Ulf Christiansson on guitar & vocals, Peter Carlsohn on bass, Redar I. Paulsen on keyboards, and Michael Ulvsgard on drums--are now on tour in Scandinavia. Please pray for them.

Wouldn't it be great to get that video aired on MTV? Hopefully, Jerusalem will tour the states again soon. If they do, I think we'll see a very mature group of believers rockin' with authority.



Michael Ulvsgärd

* **The Cutting Edge.** For info, write: Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Kosher Records** handles imports, most records in print and some that aren't! 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436.

* **Rizzen Roxx:** full metal explosion. Speed, glam, heavy and screamin' metal. PLUS fiction, insight, and RAD comics. $3 for 2 samples, $4 for 3 issues, or $9 for six issues. Send & pay to Rizzen Roxx, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **White Throne** is an underground mag covering Christian heavy metal. Issue #4 is almost out, so get it! Send $2 to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept. Z, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **The Burning Bush.** c/o Jason Bauman, Route #1, Mineral Point WI 53565. Issues of this publication include interviews, reviews, and news on all types of Christian rock (new-wave, punk and metal). It is a bi-monthly mag and is $5 per 6-issue term. Checks and Money Orders payable to Jason Bauman.

* **R.O.C.K.I.N.** - Rock Of Christ The King International. Covers the whole spectrum of today's God rock. Guaranteed to raise a religious eyebrow or two! Sample issue: $1.50. Subscriptions: 6 issues - $6; 12 issues - $11. Write checks to Michael A. Miller c/o R.O.C.K.I.N. PO Box 3196, Baltimore MD 21228.

* **Take A Stand:** Christian rock/ metal musicians newsletter. $6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long self-addressed, stamped envelope for free first issue to: Take A Stand, PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* Attention **Female rock/ metal musicians** who are sold out for Jesus! Write to: Take A Stand, PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **NOTEBORED** - Progressive Christian music with an East Coast edge. Feature articles, interviews, record reviews, concert reviews, underground acts, news, columns and up-and-coming East Coast bands. Current sample issue - $1. One year (six-issue) subscription - $5. Payable to NOTEBORED, Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310. It's a great newspaper!

* **THE OBLIGATOR** is a new Christian newsletter dealing with God's Word and God's rock, new wave/punk, and metal. $1 for a trial issue ($1.75 overseas); $5 for six (overseas $9). THE OBLIGATOR, PO Box 751, Portage MI 49081-0751. Bands: They want to review your demos.

* **The Activist:** the newspaper of "Radical Truth Through Art, Music, and Social Commentary" will cease printing on May 1, 1988, with issue #21. Samples are still only $1. Write for the line of available back issues before they are all gone. Also, get copies of Rebel Graphics #1 for only $2. These are moving fast. Chris Yambar and the entire staff thank you for your support since 1981. Send checks payable to: Manna Underground Press; 3833 1/2 Mahoning Avenue; Youngstown, Ohio 44515 USA. (We'll definitely miss your great newspaper Chris!!)

* **Strike Force,** a Christian hard rock/ metal program, airs on Fridays from 10 pm to midnight on 89.5 FM WGRN. Bands are invited to send tapes/ demos, band info, and tour schedules to Ron Norton c/o WGRN-FM, 315 E. College Ave, Greenville IL 62246.

* **Noiz,** a thrash metal band from Delaware County, Pennsylvania, seek a guitarist, singer, and another drummer. They seek musicians in the age group of 18-25, have a look, a very strong Christian background and faith, equipment, and a professional attitude. Write Noiz c/o Erik Ney, 755 Timber Trail Ln, Springfield PA 19064.

* **Metal For Jesus** is a Christian metal radio show in Sydney, Australia. Bands: send your music for airplay. Write Brett Martin, 2 Brian St, Ryde 2112, Sydney, Australia.

* **White Metal Alternatives** is here! News, lots of reviews, interviews, rad art, thought-provoking opinions and articles, testimonies. $2 for sample ($3.50 Overseas). $6 for sub ($12 Overseas). Quarterly publication. Make checks to Allen Arnold, 1402 E. College Ave Apt. K-240, Normal IL 61761.

* **Witness** - Witness the power and glory of God's music. Thrash, metal, punk, rock, God's music in general. Bands: The Witness is looking for music to review. Write to Witness for more info at: Witness, 8596 Woodhaven S.W., Byron Center MI 49315.

* **X-16 Redline** is a radio show accepting tapes for airplay consideration. Write c/o Kevin McCoy, 6408 Addington Rd, High Point NC 27263.

* We would like to have guy pen-pals that are into Christian metal (especially ones with long hair). Write Tammy Bowling, 7824 W. Washington St, Indianapolis IN 46231. Tonya Jeffers, 2750 South Lyon Ave, Indpls IN 46241.

* Wanted: **Special bass player** to play a special style of music. Saved by grace, not by works! Definite plans. Our name speaks for itself: Passion. Wade (504) 635-6147 (After 5:30 pm).

* **The Righteous Metal Hour** radio show. Bands: send music to Steve Gray, 770 Beverly Dr, Vista CA 92084.

* **KRDS**'s "Night Light" is one of the top Christian rock radio shows in the nation! Send tapes for airplay consideration to: Ron Meredith, KRDS, 8611 N. Black Canyon Hwy. Suite 206, Phoenix AZ 85021.

Record Reviews

Recommendations this issue go to: the Vengeance demo; "**Babylon**" by Soldier; "**Anthem**" by Eternal Ryte; "**Out Of The Silent Planet**" by King's X; "**Live To Die**" by Bride; "**Hymns**" by Apostle; and "**It Won't Be Long**" by Shout.

Out Of The Silent Planet - King's X

Surprise! Here is a metal band, made up of Christians, that have a major debut release on Megaforce/ Atlantic Records! Out of Houston, Texas comes this band with a fresh style of metal and revealing lyrics. The bass player and lead vocalist has played bass for Morgan Cryar and is a known One Bad Pig fan (having been spotted at Pig shows).

Do you doubt, my friend? Check out these lyrics: "See the bread, see the wine/ See the graft into the vine/ This is what is to be, it always made sense to me/ Send us a shot of love...sometimes my cup is empty/ My wish that it stay full, 'cause I am always thirsty/ I can't get enough of you/ There is nowhere else to go, there is nothing else to do/ There is nowhere else to turn/ The first and last is you..." Oh, ho! And the name of the album, "Out Of The Silent Planet", is the title of the first book of a space trilogy by C.S. Lewis. Say no more.

The music is creative. Secular mags are raving over it. Kerrang! had a very favorable review, where they said "This is the future of metal...This band is going to be giant. You just watch."

On lead vocals and bass is Doug Pinnick, who reminds me of the late Phil Lynott of Thin Lizzy. Ty Tabor plays guitar, and Jerry Gaskil plays drums. Even though it's original, I can hear influences of Grand Funk Railroad and some of the new melodic metal out, like White Lion. This band is great.

It looks like the band is taking the "U2 approach," by not labelling themselves as a Christian band. They're a band of Christians. Anything wrong with that? I think not, especially when you're still feeding your audience with as much truth as King's X do. Look for more on this band in the future here in Heaven's Metal.

I can remember the days when White Throne's Dave Johnson used to ask me if I had any info on King's X. He had heard some reports about the existance of this band years ago, but I never found anything until now. I'm excited, and I think you will be too when you buy this album. (It comes in cd too!)

Vengeance (demo)

This band sends shivers down my spine. Aaah! They're killer. Man, they are radical. Blow me away! Sound like I'm excited? This is one of the few thrash metal bands I really enjoy listening to. This is one tape that should blow away any of your friends...or enemies. It's full-on speed metal.

The instruments fly! The bass whirrs like a propellor. The rhythm guitars sound like a chainsaw...and the leads! Whoa, those leads! They're over before you know what hit you.

The tape starts off with **White Throne**, which has some of the meanest vocals around. Roger Martinez howls like a wolfman and then beckons, "Are you listen-ing?...To what I say?"

He Is God is a quick burner, which drives home the message of the diety of Christ. Each verse is pure scripture, and the chorus is "He is God, He is God." It races along at punk/thrash speed limits accompanied by wrecklessly abanded vocals.

Salvation is here one second and gone the next. The verse, chorus, bridge, and all lyrical content whatsoever is one word: salvation.

Human Sacrifice is another classic Vengeance song. The lyrics are sung so fast, that you have to really make an effort to memorize the lyrics. The lyric sheet enclosed, along with the Bible study for each song, certainly help. The vocals are ultra raspy. Imagine a caveman who's chain-smoked for thirty years saying to you, "Jesus said, 'This is the blood of the new covenant/ Shed for the remission of sins.'" That's what Roger sounds like when he does that.

Beheaded closes the tape with an emotional song about being a tribulational saint. Most of the songs on here are very emotional, both because of the passionate lyrical content and the impact of the music. **Beheaded** starts off with a spoken part about the beast being given authority over the saints. Then a marching crescendo takes the song into speedsville. The lyrics are as heavy as the music here: "In the time that it all comes down/ You'll find out just what witnessing is really all about/ So when they ask you to take the mark of the beast/ Just scream in their faces, 'I want to be beheaded, beheaded.'" Nice, syruppy stuff, huh?

This demo is just a taste of things to come. Caesar Kalinowski, the producer of their album, said the guys in the band were pleased with the sound, and that they're hard to please, so it should sound incredibly hot.

It Won't Be Long - Shout

Shout is out! The commercial metal/ slick hard rock project from Shout is an impressive debut. Far from your usual dose of metal, this album ranges from airplayish, hard-drivin' commercial metal numbers, to hard-edged radio pop. In other words, every cut on here is the kind of stuff you'd hear on the radio. Shout has studied the successful pop field and given us a wide sampling of its spectrum: From a Van Halen-style (Winners Or Losers) pop song, to a hook-laden Foreigner song (Dancin' Around The World, and Timeless Love), to a Rick Cua rocker or Kiss anthem (It Won't Be Long, Shout, and Find A Way) to a Prophet-style progressive pop rocker (Showdown).

The Shout sound is very American. Remember groups like Trooper and Head East? Shout reminds me a little of those bands. This sound is sure to get a concert crowd goin' (We'll see...at Cornerstone).

Ken Tamplin has done a successful job of producing a sleek, competent and timely sound. I'll be surprised if Shout doesn't rise to the top of the Christian rock radio charts. I'm curious to see how far Frontline penetrates this record into the mainstream market. It's got all the ingredients for success: polished vocals and tight, harmonized background vocals to please the pop fans; and enough flashy guitar sounds to appease the rockers.

Chuck King, who gave Idle Cure their guitar sound, adds his clean rhythms here. Ken Tamplin, Sammy Hagar's cousin, plays lead and rhythm guitar, as well as handling all the lead vocals. His voice is strong, adding a bit of grit with lots of polish. Dennis Holt, who drummed for the now-defunct AD, adds his drum sound here. (He's also toured recently with Idle Cure in Europe and Steve Taylor in the U.S.) Lanny Cordola of Guffria did a guitar solo in the track **Shout**.

The album cover displays a "look" that should market itself. It's not the best photo, but it definitely gets your attention and defines the band as hard-rockin'.

This album's gonna be popular. If you're open to pop-metal, buy the record and see why. The Spring Arbor ISBN #'s are: cassette - 000-688-4008; album - 000-688-4016; disc - 000-688-4024.

Testimony (demo)

This tape starts off with a killer intro that builds into what you think is gonna be rippin' music. Instead of wailing guitars crashing in, a mid-70's Jesus music piano a la 2nd Chapter of Acts comes in. After this, vocalist Lois Gistinger comes in. It's kind of anti-climactic for me. It's good stuff here. The music is hot and there's talent, both in the song composing and the performance, but I really expected to rock out and the song didn't deliver. The second song starts out with some crunching guitar chords, and then a candy-pop keyboard comes in to add texture.

The last song, **In A Twinkling Of An Eye**, is the real winner here. Lois starts off the song with some tender, yet passionate vocals. It's a bit reminiscent of the best of Barnabas. I think it holds its own well because Testimony is tackling

the sound they do best and not stretching themselves beyond their musical indentity. There's a real nice guitar picking sound that carries the song, accompanied by a nice ethereal keyboard sound, plus slow and upfront bass scales, and accented by subdued drumming and light cymbal dancing.

There's definite talent here, as the last song exhibits. Guitarist Gary Gistinger promises their next project to be heavier. If you'd like this tape, Testimony has a deal for you: One 3-song cassette; lyric sheet and bio; signed 8x10 glossy; plus a surprise bonus item. All for $6. Testimony, 3020 Hunkin Circle, Deltona FL 32738.

Soldier Of Jehovah - Seraiah

To be honest with you, I'm afraid often times when I receive a demo tape in the mail. Afraid the band is going to be a group of young, inexperienced musicians trying to sound heavy--and coming off with a wimpy sound. Seraiah, fortunately, doesn't fall into this category. They rock hard with a heavy beat. Both the drums and distorted guitars exhibit lots of muscle.

Rock Without Sin is a driving anthem that wins. It's got that Van Halen flair to it, fun rock with a metal crunch.

Known In Hell is the next song on the tape, which sounds like someone stole the master tape of AC-DC's recording sessions of **Highway To Hell**, when they were contemplating singing Christian lyrics. Just a joke, but the song here sounds a lot like the raw and bluesy rock of AC-DC's earlier days.

Never Have To Say Goodbye Again is the down spot on the tape. It's a love song from a Christian's perspective: "Forever in heaven, eternal ecstacy/ Jesus, you and me". This ballad comes off weak, because the vocals never really get your attention. A passionate performance is needed here, but wasn't delivered.

The Light ends this 4-song tape with a straight-ahead rocker. This tape can be obtained for $5 by writing Seraiah @ PO Box 1192, Marion IN 46952.

Mediator (demo)

Out of France comes a hard-rockin' band for Jesus. All their lyrics are in their mother language. The music is pretty good. The last song, **Ceci est une priere (This Is A Prayer)**, has a really beautiful melodic guitar throughout. The chorus is great (I can only tell because they sent me a lyric translation): "Jesus is calling you. Repent/ Jesus is calling you. Repent."

The band lists Stryper, Bon Jovi and The Scorpions as their influences, which explains their melodic leanings. They never speed up too much, relying on a more mid-70's style of plodding bass lines and rhythms.

The first song, **Papillon (Butterfly, Moth)**, talks about each man having a soul. "Butterfly, moth, choose/ In a body of flesh and blood, of flesh and blood/ A soul lives in you, you don't know it."

Overall, this collector's item has average music and production. Hopefully, we'll be hearing more from this band in the future. Please pray for them. If you'd like to contact them or order their tape, write Mediator, Le Petit Mont, 42450 Sury-Le-Comtal, France.

Death Is Dead - Martyr

This thrash ex-band definitely moshes it up on this tape. The production is pretty decent, which makes thrash like this much more distinguishable. This tape is a must for thrashers. You can still get it, and you ought to 'cause Martyr broke up, by sending $7 to Martyr, c/o Mark Johnson, 17848 Road 220, Porterville CA 93257.

Above The Noise - Trial By Fire

This is a pretty hot project. Hook-laden hard rock with decidedly evangelistic lyrics make up this 3-song tape. Mark Buttafuoco, who used to play in The Mission (the New York Christian underground band, not the U.K. Mission), does a good job on leads here.

The first time I heard this tape, I was disappointed, but it's since grown on me. It has a midwest industrial rock sound mixed with commercial hard rock. Kind of like a mix between the Altar Boys and John Cougar Mellencamp. It's not metal, but I like it. Give it more than one listen if you buy it. Write Trial By Fire @ 99 Prospect St. Box 1A, Babylon NY 11702.

The Return - Believer

Following in the footsteps of Deliverance and Vengeance comes Believer (from, of all places, Pennsylvania). Combining the new speed trend with some of the best of traditional metal, Believer comes on with a new mix of earfood. (Lots of tempo changes here.) The tape includes three songs: **Unite; The Return**; and **I.Y.F. (In** Your Face). Lyrics are good and upfront. Their instrumental prowess is clearly evident.

The mix is good, but when a guitar solo comes it is mixed up so loud that it chews on your ear (They probably want it that way). Labels who are interested in this genre should definitely look at these guys. The future looks bright for Believer.

Hot stuff! If you want a copy, send $5.50 to His Thrashers Music, 221 East Oak St, Palmyra PA 17078.

--Paul Q-Pek

Calling Down Fire
--Rosanna's Raiders

Australia has something to be proud of here. This band sounds like a cross between early-early Heart and Margaret Becker. It's melodic metal/ hard rock with lots of pop melodies and hooks, but it doesn't wimp out. With the recent success of Lita Ford, Rosanna's Raiders could very well be very popular. Rosanna has a crystal clear and very strong voice. The production allows lots of breathing room for the instruments and vocals to compliment each other. Rosanna's Raiders succed musically by not venturing beyond Rosanna's vocal range.

There's not a loser song on this tape. Now that Christian metal is expanding so much, you the consumer, have more to choose from. Some of you aren't going to like this record, 'cause it's not bone-crunching metal or thrash. Most of you will like it, 'cause it's aggressive and has a big sound.

The title cut is a rocker and the second song, **Like A River**, is a beautiful ballad, like any you could take off a Heart album. Check it out.

ISBN #'s are: k - 790-060-1325; r - 790-060-1317; d - 790-060-2933.

Identify Yourself - ID

This is a hot ecclectic band from Northern California. Far from metal, it's 80's music with female lead vocals. Kind of a nuclear dance blend of artsy music. Write ID if you wanna expreriment a bit. ID, c/o Scott Engels, 4555 Mohr Ave, Pleasanton CA 94566.

Flowers In The Rain
--Mad At The World

Speaking of non-metal artsy rock, Mad At The World is radical. Their second album finds them almost being a metal band. The electric guitar, turned all the way up here at times, was entirely absent from their previous effort. Check out cuts like: **Flowers In The Rain; Puppet Strings; Wait**; and **Dancing On Your Grave**. Different stuff. I love it.

Shine On - Surprise

This is an 11-song tape of good hard-rock songs from a relaxed and seasoned band. They're not afraid to use the saxophone and a little keyboards. It comes off pretty well. The lyrics are right on and the sound is light, yet fresh.

To order this tape, send $12. For their sticker, send $2. Button, $2. Song textbook, $5. Poster, $4. If ordering any merchandise together with the tape, add an additional $2 postage. If ordering any merchandise without the tape, send

an additional $5 for postage. The tape price alone of $12 includes postage. Send cash only to: Jubika Plattenstore, Thomas Albring, Zum Sportplatz 8, D-3551 Bottenhorn, West Germany.

Hymns - Apostle

Apostle's new tape, **Hymns**, is hotter than ever! It starts off with a Baroque-era classical organ piece, which, of course, drops into a barrage of metal madness. Rock and classical mix so well. I'm glad to finally see a Christian guitarist really embrace it.

Apostle's metal is very heavy. The drums, bass and guitar really go after it in each of Apostle's songs.

The rocking intros they play set up Matt Harding's piercing vocals perfectly. Matt very boldly throws out scripture with each breath.

This tape is bleedin' great! It's got some of the hottest, most frantic guitar runs you'll find in Christian music.

I hear great improvements on this tape over **Chariots Of Iron**, which is no poor tape itself. The guitar work on this tape is sure to please guitar heads. If this tape doesn't make your ears bleed, it's not loud enough. The songs here were produced by Matt, Glenn Kaiser, and Tim Lawhon.

Overall, this tape is hot, you ought to get it. The only thing that could bother you at all is Matt's unique vocals. If you don't like 'em at first, give 'em a couple more listens. I think they'll grow on ya.

Apostle has a special deal on all their tapes. You can receive: a copy of **White Metal; Chariots Of Iron**; and **Hymns**; an 8x10 photo; and a bumper sticker. All for $25. If you want to purchase individual tapes, send $10 for each one (includes postage). Send checks or money orders made out to Matt Harding, 3885 Valencia Rd, Jacksonville FL 32205-9221.

Babylon - Soldier

This tape is great! Standout cuts are...forget about picking a few, let's say all of 'em! It's the same Soldier as their **Louder Than Hell** tape exhibited, but with a lot cleaner sound. Jimmy sounds like a cross between Triumph's Gil Moore and Rik Emmett.

This is a tape I want to hear more than many others. Their commercial, yet crunchy sound is infectious. This tape sits up there with Paradox's **Ruler** as standout demos in the Christian metal underground. Soldier, who might show up on Regency Music's **California Metal II**, deserve to be signed. Their set at the Mardis Gras last year was explosive!

At the heart of Soldier's music are lyrics calling for a true devotion to God. **Love Him Like The First Time** calls for a return to our first love and all the passion we had for God at that time.

If you don't get this tape, you're passing up a glimpse at a band that, I think, is gonna be big. If you want to order this tape that I can't say anything bad about, send $7 to Soldier, Suite 171, 39120 Argonaut Way, Freemont CA 94538.

Victory (demo)

If you'd like to get a taste of how Holy Soldier is (vocally) gonna sound in the future, send for this tape, which features their new vocalist, Steve Patrick. I don't know if it's still available, but by all means try and get ahold of it. The guy can sing! He stands up to White Lion and all those golden-throated pouters. It's got four songs: **Kill 'Em All; Hell On Wheels; Revelation** (an instrumental); and **Grave Beneath The Stone.** Write Victoryy c/o Sean O'Donnel, 3100 Domar, Memphis TN 38118.

Autumn Rose (demo)

Imagine .38 Special with Pat Benatar singing lead. Good production, very thick. Everything is first rate here, except the lead vocals at times. She's at her best when she growls. Lyrically, these three songs are not super upfront. But, in the song **I Surrender**, you find these words: "I surrender all, body and soul/ I give it up/ All I got, Lord to You." Good pop metal tunes from an impressive band.

Send $5 to Autumn Rose, c/o Michael James, 123 Orangeblossom, Irvine CA 92714.

--Paul Q-Pek

Golgotha (demo)

Another hard rock band demo, but this one features more of a serious metallic guitar all through the tape. This Golgotha is not to be confused with the Bay Area version. These guys have gone after a Led-Zeppelin/ blues-based sound--complete with guitar sounds similar to Jimmy Page's violin bow techniques. It features 13 full-length songs, all recorded in Golgotha's living room on a reel to reel tape recorder. The production is obviously not the best, but I enjoy listening to it. It plods at times, but that's da blooz sometimes, ya know? They list their influences as Sabbath, Zep, Purple, and Robin Trower.

To get ahold of this tape, send $3 to Golgotha, c/o D. Hilman, RFD #2 Box 550, Carmel ME 04419.

Concert Reviews

Metal Heaven Or Nothing -- Barren Cross in Dallas, March 19, 1988

We're talking awesome show! These guys are so heavy! Man, they made this reviewer smile all night. (At least until the three-hour drive home.)

They flew through the first three songs with out taking a chance to breath. They started off with "Imaginary Music" and went into "Dying Day".

Ray Parris did a classical/ melodic, Vinnie Moore-type solo after the end of the "Heaven Or Nothing" ballad. Steve Whitaker went into a killer drum solo after the outro of "Killers Of The Unborn".

Their set was super tight, consisting of all the songs off "Atomic Arena" minus "Terrorist Child", plus "Dying Day", "He Loves You", "Give Your Life" and "Going Nowhere".

Barren Cross has a great stage presence. Mike Lee knows how to command an audience. He walks to the edge of the stage and raises his hands, causing all 200 plus present in Dallas to go nuts. Some bands have a fair stage presence, where you enjoy their show but quickly forget the visual aspect of it. Then there's bands like Barren Cross and Bloodgood that blow you away! You're just awestruck and may think, as I do, that these two bands are destined to play in front of thousands. Let it happen!

One Bad Pig Thrashes Dallas!

The Pig played in Dallas three times this Spring, as well as once in Houston. You've gotta see 'em play sometime. You'll never forget the look of anguish on Paul Q-Pek's face during "Everyday A Nightmare", an anti-abortion song where Kosher spouts statistics about how many babies were murdered during the time it took to play the song. "Looney Tune" has to be the first Polka/thrash song ever done. It starts off with a very fun Polka rhythm, making you act real goofy for awhile, then goes into high-speed thrash. Look for more material from them in the future, as well as small touring on the West Coast after the next tape is released. Meanwhile, you may purchase a cassette of their debut EP, "A Christian Banned", available for the first time on cassette! Send $6 to: One Bad Pig, PO Box 3054, Austin TX 78764. Also available are One Bad Pig stickers. They're hot pink (of course) and are 2 for $1.

Live To Die - Bride

This album smokes! Bride delivers some heavy metal here with walls of guitar and drum sounds. Dale's voice hits all the right spots on this album, which makes a marked improvement over **Show No Mercy**. The performance and songwriting has improved greatly.

"I think Show No Mercy was a very adolescent album," says Dale. "I think **Live To Die** is more mature."

Metal Might packs a punch worthy of the song title. The rhythm here is a great hook.

Hell No is another crunching anthem. All the instruments are punching here, including Dale's voice. He rivals Dio in vocal performance here. The double bass drum licks stand out here. Awesome stuff! I can remember Dale raving about this material back when Show No Mercy was just released. He was right! This stuff is killer!

Dale really puts in a mature performance on this album. Bride has an original sound. It's hot.

In The Dark is a slower number, which slows down midway for a visit in the "blue light lounge". Actually it's a very jazz/blues-oriented guitar riff in the bridge.

Out For Blood, like In The Dark, takes on a moody feel, which seems a Bride trademark. There's some good double leads here.

Live To Die is the first thrasher on the tape, showing Bride can duke it out with the speedsters of metal.

"Thrash is easy to play," says Dale. "It's very tempting to please the thrashers and just play one style of music, but that's not what I want to do. We're working on a new sound, kind of an extensive Def Leppard or INXS."

I've got to applaud Dale's attitude to always explore new artistic ground, but I hope he still does rockers like these also.

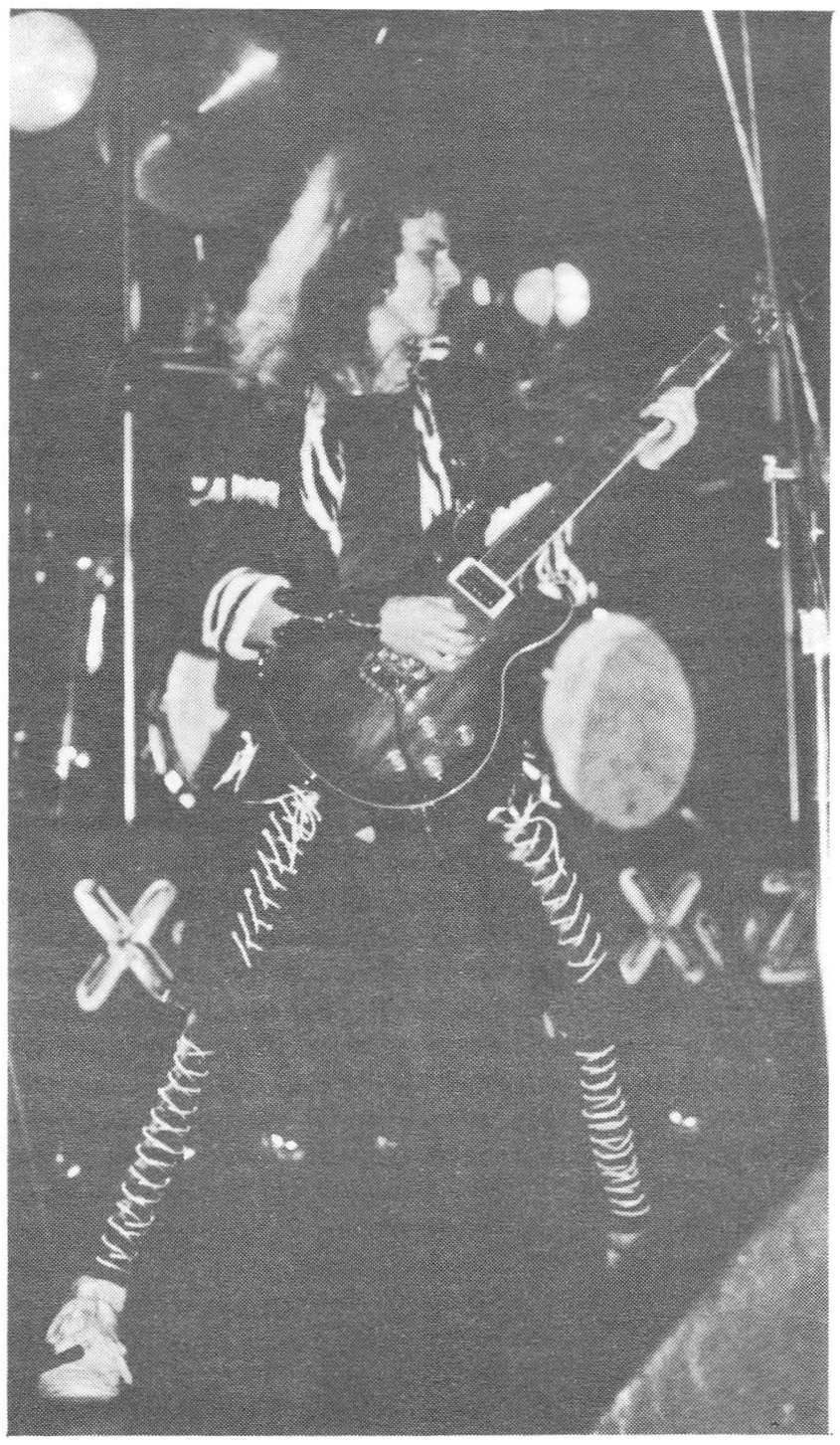
Fire And Brimstone is a real fast rocker. Dale makes interesting use of the syllables in the words "fire and brimstone" in the chorus. It's a hot song with some good leads in it.

Whiskey Seed is a bold challenge to those hiding behind a bottle. Dale whispers his allegations behind a marching drum beat, which is accented by that "blue light lounge" guitar riff again.

Here Comes The Bride is a speed metal race. Dale does a good job of screaming the lyrics at top speed. Bride does a good job thrashin', time changin' and screamin'.

Heroes ends the tape with a talking piece over a horror movie type organ accompaniment, then the gong is hit and the song speeds up through a nice instrumental intro.

The ISBN #'s are: k - 790-060-2925; r - 790-060-2968; d - 790-060-2933.



Bride's axeman: Troy Thompson

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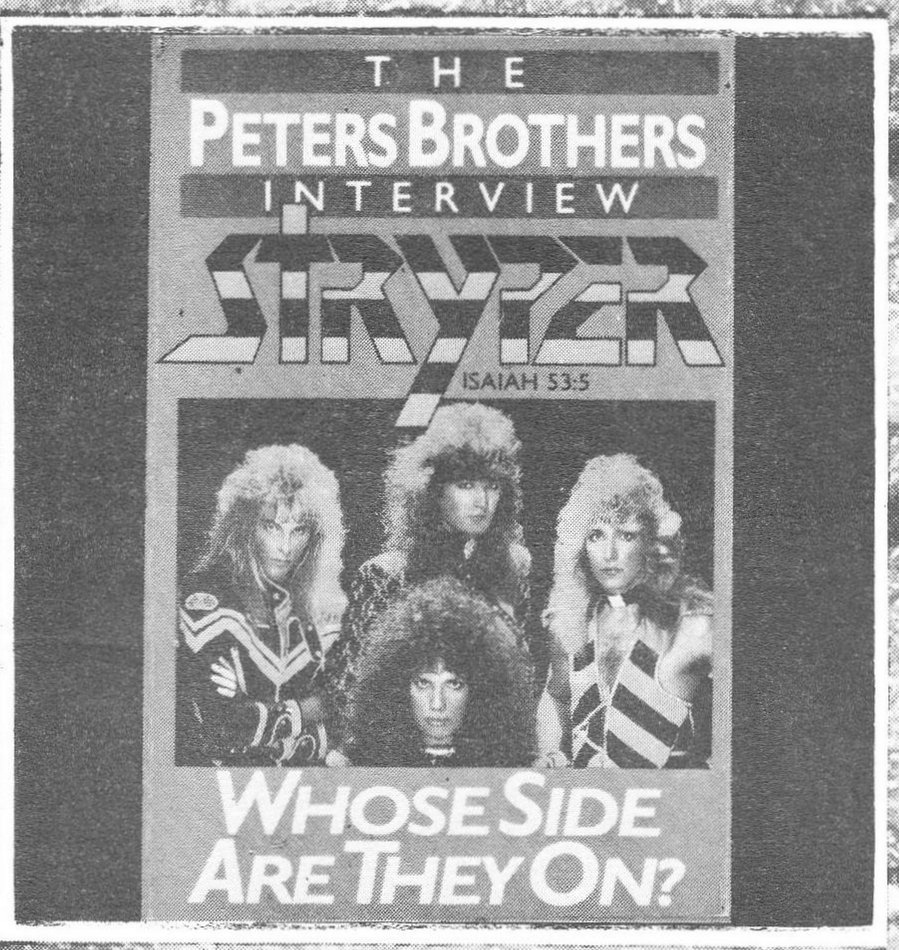

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LOVE

What is love? Everyone seems to want it. The world definitely doesn't have enough of it. If everyone is honest with themselves and others, they would admit their desire to love and be loved. It's an inner need we all have.

Advertising companies know full well the basic need of being loved that all of us have. With a warped sense of what love is, they attract us to possessions and positions that are supposed to somehow give us what we all crave for: love. We use the terms, "I'm in love," and "falling in love," to describe an emotion we feel when we're attracted to the opposite sex. With this in mind, advertisers play on our desires for love, which is designed to cause us to act in a way that's supposed to give us love.

Popular music is full of love songs. "If only I had love," or "I lost my love."

What is love? Love is a commitment to serve no matter what. Love is based more upon giving than receiving. Love gives even when it doesn't receive in return.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

God is the author of love and He naturally displays that love to us in His actions. He loves us so much that He came down to earth and poured out His life as a drink offering. He showed love to His disciples and to His enemies. He served all mankind with His life.

He gave His life up so that our sins might be paid for. We are guilty of sin, all of us, and we face a death sentence. Jesus paid for our death sentence by dying for us on a cross.

What could be a more loving gesture? He gave us His life. All we have to do is receive His death as our penalty for sin. God will forgive us for our sin if we do this. Believe that Jesus died for you, and you'll be forgiven of all your sin!

This well make you a Christian. You might ask, "What about doing good deeds, evangelism and all that stuff?" Don't worry about those things. They come naturally out of your love for God. Once you've been forgiven, you're so grateful that you want to express your love for God by doing good deeds. Good deeds or "service" come about as our response to God's love for us.

"We love, because He first loved us."

God's definition of love is so different than the mass media's definition. God's love is based on fact, not feeling. The fact is, He loves you, and He's waiting to show you what real love is.

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